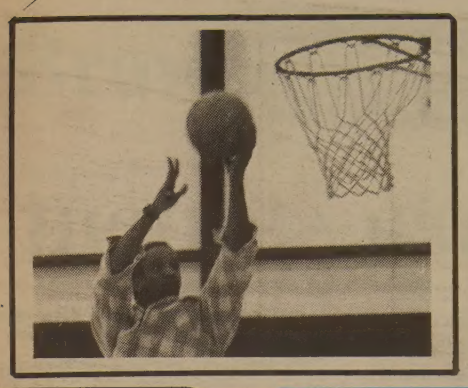

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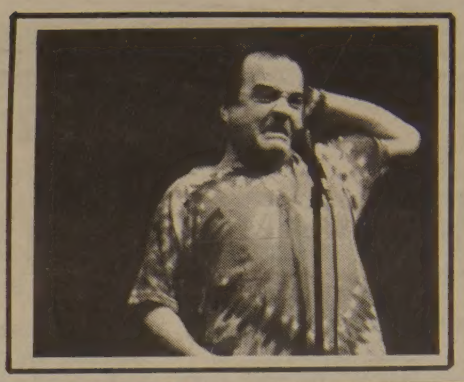

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NIAGARA NEWS

VOLUME 27, NO. 9 —FREE— JAN. 31, 1997

NIAGARA COLLEGE
Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING
RESOURCE CENTRE

Niagara News captures Crime Stoppers' Award *See Page 8*

Stepping up

Kim Schertzing teaches a step aerobics class of enthusiastic members at the Welland Area Family YMCA. Inset: Mark McDougall pumps up in the new Fitness Centre. For more coverage see IN THE SPOTLIGHT on pages 10 and 11.

Photos by Jhim Burwell

Trick's from ministry

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

Dan Patterson represented Niagara College at the Council of Ontario College Presidents in Toronto, where John Snobelen, provincial education and training minister, was scheduled to speak Jan. 20.

Snobelen had to cancel for personal reasons.

"It was unfortunate that the minister couldn't meet with us," said Patterson. David Trick, assistant deputy minister, attended in Snobelen's place.

Trick wanted input on the ministry's plan to promote strategic investment aimed at moving the system "toward programming that is better for students and prospective employers."

This move toward higher efficiency will include programming curriculum around the current, increased demands for expertise in business and industry.

"He wanted to talk to us about making more progress on common information resources for human resources within the college system," said the president, adding this means the original promise by the ministry of "no decrease" in funding refers to the total monies given to the college system. The allocation of specific amounts will still be different.

In other words, there will be less money transferred to individual institutions for their general operating costs. "This is being resisted by the Council of Presidents," said Patterson.

Niagara College is to get 3.26 per cent of the $597-million provincial General Purpose Grant that is divided among the colleges.

The Ontario Ministry of Education and Training's plans for investment in systemwide improvement includes Strategic Program Investments and Information System Improvements, for a total of four per cent of the total college system grant.

"We don't want that money to come out of money that colleges are already expecting," said Patterson, adding the money should come out of the $85-million Special Purpose Grants and not the General Purpose Grant budget.

Another issue Trick touched on was the provincial government has not finalized tuition rates yet, but the hope is Snobelen will make an announcement in early February.

There has been "no indication of what the results will be," said Patterson, his frustration evident in his tone of voice.

Part of the delay has been the ministry's review of the results of the Post-Secondary Panel. David Smith from the Panel talked briefly of the outcomes of its findings at the meeting.

Patterson has volunteered to sit on a committee that will give feedback to the ministry about the panel's recommendations.

Retention: 'Proactive approach'

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

Niagara College is proposing increased awareness on student retention.

A pilot project on retention rates has recently been introduced and would see Niagara focus on enhancing the success of its students.

"What we're going to do is work more closely with about 60 students, 30 from the school of business and 30 from the school of technology," said Brigitte Chiki, director of Access and Student Success at the college.

The project has been launched for students enrolled in selected January-start programs for the 1997 year.

"The thrust of it is that we're going to take a more proactive approach with these students," said Chiki.

Factors associated with a focus on student retention include a dramatic increase in the cost of higher education, a heightened competition between institutions for declining numbers of students and limited financial resources, demographic changes in the population of new students, a decline in levels of academic preparation of entering students and "alarming rates" of student attrition, especially in the first year of college.

"Our job is to educate people and prepare them for the workforce or perhaps future education," said Al Vaughan, registrar at Niagara College.

"We don't expect a 100 per cent graduation rate," he added.

According to a recent document highlighting statistics and strategies for the project, one-year programs at Niagara had the highest graduation rates at 62 per cent, compared to 41 per cent for all programs.

Notably, three-year programs had a higher graduation rate (40 per cent) than two-year programs (35 per cent). Overall, for the fall 1993 to 1995 term-one intakes, about 70 per cent of students were retained by the end of term two.

Although there are ongoing strategies for retention success at the college, government cutbacks have forced administrators to place greater emphasis on the agenda.

"The financial aspect is a pleasant consequence of a retention project, but it has much more to do with students' success," said Chiki.

"It's not always about rescuing the students and keeping them in the mix. It's about keeping that student committed to the concept of lifelong education."

A withdrawal survey has been implemented to aid the program's objectives. Survey results were tab-

(Continued on page 3)

Tragedies hit home

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

It's been a sad week for the Niagara College family.

Katie Jane Brown, 21, of Fort Erie, a second-year Social Service Worker program student, died in an automobile accident on Jan. 24.

On Jan. 27, the 23-year-old son of Sharon Yacyshyn, an employee in the college's Welland campus bookstore, was killed following a two-vehicle accident.

Timothy Eugene Yacyshyn was pronounced dead at the scene of a head-on collision on Highway 20, only kilometres from his south Thorold home.

On Jan. 28, mourners gathered to remember Brown at her funeral at St. Andrew's United

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PROFILES

Working hard pays off for Niagara student

By DERRICK VANDER-LELY
Staff Writer

When Jeff Wiebe isn't busy studying, he is hard at work selling automotive parts to the people of St. Catharines.

Wiebe, 21, of St. Catharines, is a second-year student at Niagara College in Welland. He is enrolled in the Business Accounting Co-op program.

After classes and on weekends, Wiebe can be found at Canadian Tire in St. Catharines at the corner of Scott and Vine streets working in the automotive section.

"I like my job and I learn something everyday," says Wiebe. "I like working with people."

Recently, Wiebe entered a Canadian Tire contest called Parts Pro '96. The contest consisted of three levels of questions aimed at testing the participants' automotive knowledge.

Wiebe finished in the top 15 per cent of the 3,000 people entered and received an "honor" certificate. He got a black and red jacket for his efforts.

"When I first started working in parts, all I knew was where to put the oil," says Wiebe, commenting on his automotive knowledge. "I've learned a lot about cars since then."

JEFF WIEBE

"I knew he would get the award," says 19-year-old fellow co-worker Bryan McGuiness. "I'm pleased for him. He's a smart guy."

Wiebe has been an automotive sales clerk for more than three years. He plans a career in the accounting field, primarily financial planning.

"When I graduate this year I plan to take more courses and get my CFP (certified financial planner) title."

Wiebe has maintained academic honors with an 89 per cent average in his first year and an 85 per cent average last term at Niagara College.

"I enjoy the tax part of accounting as well as the financial planning," he says.

Balancing school and work can be difficult, but Wiebe takes it all in stride.

"After school I go to work and then come home and concentrate on my homework. Some weekends I won't even go out."

Despite his busy schedule, he still finds time to unwind. Wiebe plays ice hockey twice a week. In the summer, he is active in two separate baseball leagues.

Foster: 'terrible student' turned teacher

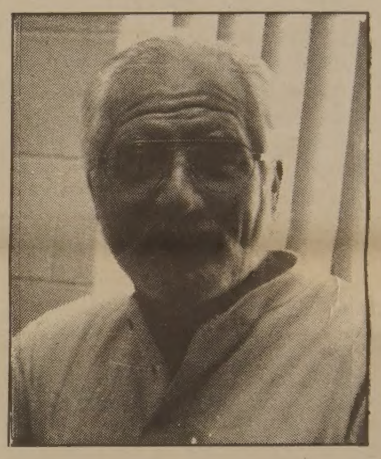
By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

Neil Foster, let's do lunch.

That's the kind of attitude that has made Foster one of the most well-liked and respected teachers at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

Foster, 54, is co-ordinator of the Hotel and Restaurant Administration program.

Foster has been teaching full time at the college for 11 years.



NEIL FOSTER

'I would love to go back to the industry, but what I'm doing here has value.'
- Foster

He describes his job at the college as a chance to "educate students in life," a subject he feels strongly about.

"The person is far more important than the training," he said. Foster tries to teach students the policy of "what are you going to do about it," instead of regret.

Foster teaches the philosophy: "Make something happen. Don't let something happen to you." He lives what he teaches and has let this philosophy guide his life.

Since his days at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, in Toronto, Foster took two courses of study not following the norm but seeing the advantage in the combination of Business Adminstration and Hotel and Restaurant Adminstration.

Foster graduated in 1967 and went to work in Halifax. He came to Niagara Falls in 1978 to work for The Pillar and Post Inn as the general manager. He held the position for seven years before beginning to teach at Niagara College.

Foster said he was a "terrible student" in high school, but always knew what he wanted to do. "Ever since I was a kid I knew I wanted to be a hotel manager."

Asked about the future, Foster said, "I would love to go back to the industry, but what I'm doing here has value."

Foster practices a "healthy lifestyle." He works out at the YMCA every "second day" and spends as much time as possible with his wife, Betsy, whom he describes as "an attractive and competent lady." He also spends time with their dog, Misty, and spends as much time as possible relaxing at their condominium in South Carolina.

"I really don't like the winter," Foster said with a grimace.

Student slips through the crack

By BRIAN HALLETT
Staff Writer

One shouldn't have to choose between an education and one's life, but for a 34-year-old Niagara College student that's what he has done.

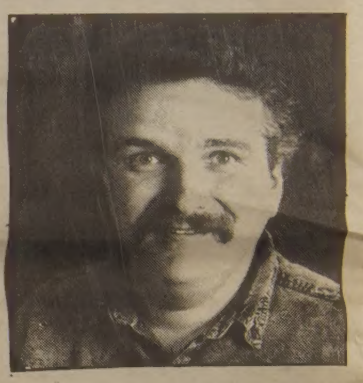
The Common Sense Revolution of the Ontario Progressive Conservative government has caused second-year Journalism-Print program student Colin Huneault to temporarily quit his education.

In December, an ultrasound revealed Huneault had a problem inside his left kidney. Further examination would be required to determine the ailment's nature.

Huneault said he wanted his medical problem resolved before the start of his last term. "During the third semester I was ill and my marks were inconsistent," said Huneault. "I can do better."

The funding dispute between the Tories and the province's medical specialists prevented Huneault from obtaining the medical test results earlier.

Huneault said he felt like a victim caught in a war between the doctors and the provincial government.



COLIN HUNEAULT

Faced with a possible operation and a deadline for reimbursement of tuition fees, he put college on hold.

"Mike Harris's reforms have adversely affected my life," said Huneault. "His Common Sense Revolution should be called the Nonsense Institution."

Huneault said he will return to college in 1998 to complete his program.

The "irony of it all" is that Huneault was misdiagnosed and will not have his left kidney removed.

Audio-visual clerk remains constant amidst changes

Kovacs reminisces about the college's growth

By DEBRA BRIGHT
Staff Writer

Many changes have occurred at Niagara College, says a longtime employee of college's library.

Helen Kovacs, 57, of Thorold, has been employed at Niagara as an audio-visual clerk since 1969. The first intake of students at the college was in 1967.

"When the college first opened, it consisted of two buildings — Hennepin Hall and the Mackenzie Building, which was referred to as the field house," said Kovacs.

The next building added was Voyageur, which housed the first library, as well as the auto mechanics labs, four classrooms and a study hall.

The Black Walnut Building, which serves as the college cafeteria, was built next.

The largest addition to the college was in 1972 when the Simcoe Building was constructed. It also included the Merritt and Lundy Wings and Tecumseh Centre, which contains the library.

Within the last 10 years, Kovacs has seen the college expand to include a Student Activity Centre, a new Early Childhood Centre and the Hospitality Centre in Niagara Falls, which has been renamed The Maid of the Mist Centre.

Through the years Kovacs' position at the college has remained the same.

Her position comprises two parts, which includes working at the computerized circulation desk, as well as being responsible for the ordering of all audio-visual supplies, equipment and related software for the college.

Aside from her position at the college, Kovacs is an active citizen in Welland. In 1976, she became one of the founding members of the Welland Heritage Council and was the president for 10 years before resigning in 1996.

HELEN KOVACS

Kovacs is also active in the Hungarian community and travels thoughout Ontario performing with the only vintage Hungarian Folk Dance group in North America.

As a member of the Hungarian Presbyterian Church, she is the Clerk of Session, a representative elder and has been secretary of the Kathlin Bethlen Society for the past 30 years.

Kovacs has an interest in astrology and took an introductory course on the subject in 1996.

Kovacs has an interest in astrology and took an introductory course on the subject in 1996.

Brown was an 'exuberant and excellent student'

(Continued from page 1)

Church in Niagara Falls.

She died in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 140 near Ramey Road at 5:45 p.m. a week ago today. She was a mother of two children under the age of four, Dylan and Maya.

"She was a single mother putting herself through school working to graduate in April," said Cheryl Cowtan, advisory representative for the second-year Social Service Worker program students. She was "really trying to change her future and improve it (the future) for her children."

Caring for youth was part of Brown's field placement for the second year of her program. She spent two days a week at Port's End Youth Home.

'She was a very involved classmate.' - Phil Durrant

Phil Durrant, Social Service Worker program co-ordinator, said Brown was "exuberant and an excellent student."

"She was a very involved classmate; everyone knew and liked her," he said.

Amy Noone, 20, a second-year Social Service Worker program student, said, "She was a really sweet girl and we miss her greatly around the classroom."

Classes for students in the Social Service Worker program were cancelled on Monday and Tuesday. When classes resumed on Wednesday, representatives of the health centre and counselling department at the college spoke to the students "about the need for counselling and services" available, said Durrant.

"Katie Brown's death makes you stop and think how vulnerable we really are," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson. "It is hard to reconcile, but we must remember her energy and commitment, and get strength from what she left behind.

"Our thoughts and sympathies go out to her family and friends as well as classmates," Patterson said.

Brown is survived by her parents, a brother and a sister.

The Social Service Worker program office, H23 at the Welland campus, is accepting donations to a trust fund the Brown family has established for Dylan and Maya.

Yacyshyn, a graduate of E.L. Crossley Secondary School in Fonthill, was a member of the high school's rowing team. He went on to earn a diesel mechanic's licence at Centennial Secondary School in Welland and was employed at Silverline Trucking in St. Catharines, where he worked with his father, Eugene.

A funeral service for Yacyshyn was held yesterday at the Dixon Funeral Home on Pelham Street in Fonthill. Burial was at Pleasantview Memorial Gardens in Thorold.

The Niagara College flag at the Welland campus flew at half mast for the week.

Giving back to community

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

This is the fourth in a series of articles featuring members of the Niagara College Board of Governors

The vice-president of Quality Inn Fallsview, Niagara Falls, has broadened her sights to Niagara College.

AMY BIGNUCOLO
Photo by Communications and Planning

Amy Bignucolo, of Niagara Falls, is a new Niagara College governor. "It's a challenging position to be in, especially during these difficult, challenging times," says Bignucolo.

Bignucolo was approached by the new member search committee and found the proposal to be "most interesting. I started out in education and now I've come full circle."

The Sudbury native completed teacher's college in North Bay and got her first teaching job with the Niagara Separate School Board. In the early 1970s to continue working and raise three children, Bignucolo chose to work with her husband at Quality Inn.

Her business connections in the tourism industry and her ability to network within the industry are assets, Bignucolo says, she brings to the board.

"I can organize, plan and execute. These skills I have carried through in the tourism field and these same skills can be carried through in (board dealings)."

Bignucolo sits on the Nomination and Search Committee, which searches for "new board members that have certain skills and areas of expertise to make a full complement of a good board. The (present) complement of the board is terrific. Such wonderful people come from different walks of life and share their opinions."

The Professional Planning and Development Committee, of which Bignucolo is also a member, arranges seminars and meetings to give board members background knowledge on "specific, up-to-date issues of the board to broaden their viewpoints and to help them make sound decisions."

Asked what she hopes to see the college achieve during her three-year term, Bignucolo says, "make sure that we continue to make college universally accepted, continue to ensure that quality education is ongoing, and use financial dollars responsibly with creative management."

Bignucolo says the most important of all the objectives is "to make sure that we meet students' expectations. In order to do this we have to do all of the rest."

Bignucolo is involved in various community organizations such as the Gateway Steering Committee and is the director of the Visitor Convention Bureau and the Winter Festival of Lights.

"The community has been good to me. I've earned my livelihood here. I want to give something back to the community that's given (me) so much," she says.

Report examines why students drop out

(Continued from page 1)

ulated by the Access and Student Success Division of the college. Some of their findings include:

- Two-thirds of all withdrawals are in their first year of college studies, with about 50 per cent leaving in term one.
- Most withdrawals are experiencing problems passing some or all of their courses.
- Only a small percentage of the students used college resources.
- The majority of withdrawing students did not meet with their professional co-ordinator prior to leaving.

"The factors affecting retention are very complex," said Vaughan. "There are a lot of factors influencing a student to withdraw and a lot of factors causing them to stay. Hopefully, we have the services in place and the students are informed of these services."

Vaughan stressed the importance of financial aid, student life, peer tutoring and remedial programs to help keep students connected to the institution and the people.

A first-year survey has also been phased into the project. The survey will provide a snapshot of the college's entrance students, offering administrators "critical" information to help them achieve a successful project.

Part of the project will see students assessed through math and English tests. Results considered "at risk" will have a number of resources attached so the student can improve his/her skills.

"We will stay in-touch with the student on a more regular basis and try to do some preventative work," said Chiki.

A report on students' attendance will be issued after one month of classes.

Information will be given to students highlighting options to help them become more successful.

Chiki said the project is not about discipline. She stressed the importance of student evaluation in terms of their success.

The program has been labelled as "very time intensive" but "rewarding."

"We are measuring the process as much as the outcome," Chiki said. "We recognized when we started, the project would be a customized training plan for each student."

Scholarships available to special need students

By OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writer

Two new scholarship programs are available to students with special needs.

The Dr. E. Bruce Hendrick Scholarship Program is open to Canadian citizens living in Ontario who have spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus.

The scholarship is offered by the Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario.

The number of awards and their value will be determined each year. Applications for the program must be received by the last business day of March.

The Association of Universities and Colleges is offering scholarships through the National Access Awareness Week Student Awards Program.

This program is open to students with disabilities who are Canadian citizens or have lived as a permanent resident of Canada for a minimum of two years.

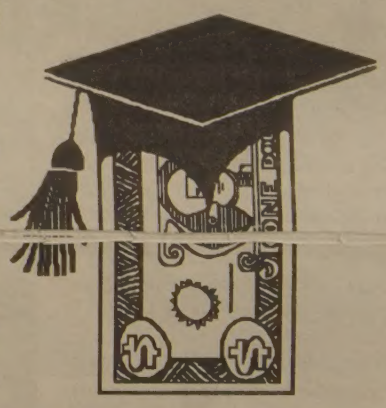
The definition of a disability, for the purpose of the program, is "a functional limitation resulting from a physical, sensory, or mental impairment, which for an indefinite period, affects the ability of the student to perform the activities necessary to participate fully in post-secondary learning."

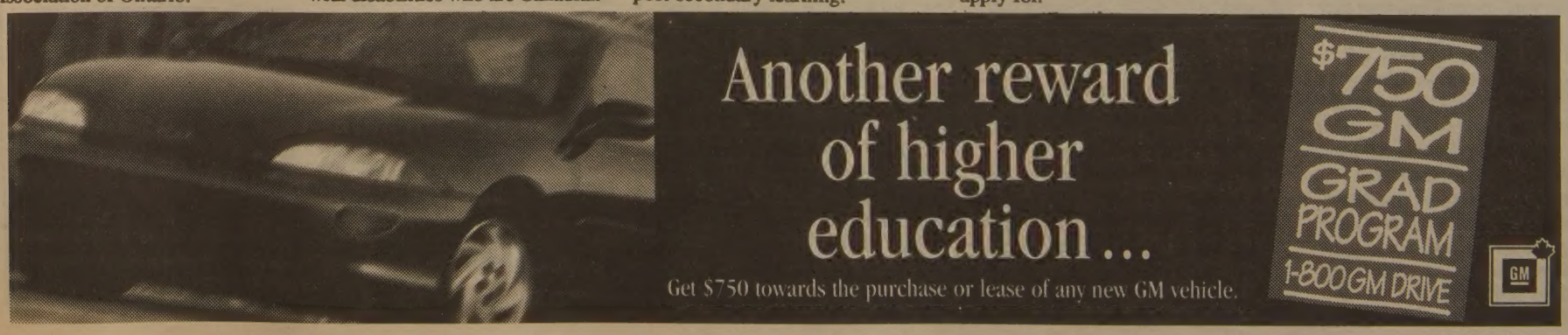
The deadline for applications is March 15.

Any student interested in applying for these scholarships should contact the Special Needs Office in SE101 at Niagara College's Welland campus.

There are other award programs for students with special needs.

Gilles Prescott, co-ordinator of the Special Needs Office, will help students find scholarships they can apply for.

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Camp concerned with today's Conservatives

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Never before in the history of federal politics has the Progressive Conservative party looked so blue — down in the dumps, that is.

Yet the ideology of conservatism has probably never been as popular as it is now in Canada.

The problem with the federal Tories of today, "the caucus that could meet in a closet," said Dalton Camp while speaking at Brock University Jan. 22, is that the *progressive* in Conservative is sadly missing from the ideology that once made the party great.

Camp was speaking as part of Brock University's D.G. Willmot Distinguished Lecture Series. He thoughtfully recounted conversations, histories, and political anecdotes from his years as a senior Tory cabinet adviser, president of the national Progressive Conservative party, and haunter of the socio-political circles that have existed since before Canada was a confederation.

"The Conservatives spend a great deal of time trying to define themselves," said Camp, a New Brunswick native. "But if you look at the Conservative party today, they have a terrible affliction — it's called an election."

The so-called "Father of the Big Blue Machine," Camp is the author of four books and has been a columnist for a number of Canadian newspapers, including the Toronto Star where his column is currently featured.

He has attended the University of New Brunswick, Columbia University in New York City as well as the London School of Economics in London, England, and received a number of honorary degrees from several universities.

"Canada must be considered a strong community, if only because we can be in very few places where we feel we're strangers."

As opposed to old school thinking where you were born either a Platoean or Aristotelian type thinker, "out east you were born a Liberal or a Conservative," said Camp.

"I was a party man. I took great pride in participating in the party system. We have a party system because we can replace people when they break from the ideology."

But aside from being a "Red Tory" ("someone who in desperation would vote New Democratic Party before he'd vote Liberal"), Camp said the lack of respect in politics today, by participants and spectators, is what's most disruptive to Canada's system of government.

The theory that "platforms are for getting in on, not for operating on once you get there" is what fundamentally propels the unfortunate cynicism routing the political system.

"Those fellows in Ottawa now," said Camp, successfully based their entire election platform on a "stage prop."

The Liberal "Red Book" was never distributed to voters. "People just held it up."

Boisterous promises seemed clear to the voters, and were later spoken of in hushed tones by the Liberals after the 1993 election.

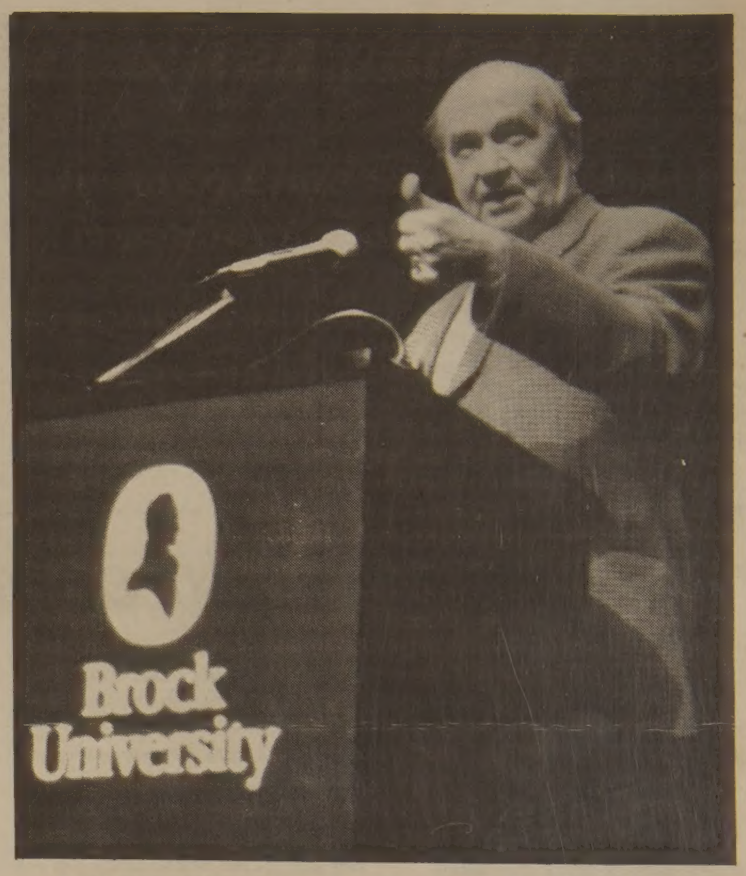
"We all knew how it was said, 'we'll eliminate the GST' — [Deputy Prime Minister] Sheila [Copps] was the only one who believed it. Do you think we can afford tax cuts without reducing services?"

Reductions and centralization in media and government as well as "American talk coming over the tube" have given weight to right-leaning government and "neo-Conservative" rallying for continued tax cuts, said Camp.

"Canadian corporate taxes are the lowest in the G7. Employer and employee tax combined are also the lowest. If you look at the message of the so-called neo-Conservatives, the first thing they want is a 20 per cent cut in income and corporate taxes. Why?"

Emphasizing the basic human need in political thinking, Camp reminded the audience of Tory projects such as the forming of the CBC and National Film Board.

"There is a *progressive* in Conservative," he said. "We were not always the party cutting taxes and programs and turning our back on human need."



Speaking on conservatism, long-time Tory, author and columnist, Dalton Camp, at Brock University, Jan. 22.
Photo by Adam Kieswetter

Strong message heard from SAC

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Student Administrative Council (SAC) brought aboard a new student representative in January and she says she is set in her purpose to raise student morale.

Elected by class representatives in December, Tiffany Fox, 21, a first-year General Arts and Science program student, says there's a "marked lack of school spirit" among Niagara College students and that SAC is lacking in its efforts to find out why students are so glum.

A student representative position was opened in November when Rhonda-Lynn Des Roches, 35, then SAC student representative, was appointed to the office of SAC vice-president external. Former vice-president external Kim Fragomeni resigned from the position because of a desire to return to her job at General Motors in St. Catharines.

Fox says student council should take a more active role in trying to determine why student participation in scheduled SAC activities is low.

"There's a marked lack of school spirit and SAC action to find out the problem with students and why they don't participate. There's got to be something we can do about it."

SAC "isn't very well known," says Fox, and "needs to get in touch with students" in order to let them know they really do have a strong student voice through council.

Better known to some students as the Niagara Knight, Niagara College's blue-faced mascot, Fox is already recognized as a harbinger of healthy school spirit.

"She seems to be a team player," says Don Woodruff, SAC executive vice-president.

"She's always been out trying to raise school spirit. She does the mascot for us and was trying to get it (school spirit) out as it was. Now it's official."

"If there's a message I can give," says Fox, "it's just to encourage people to come into the SAC office. Just come forward with your ideas and get involved."

TIFFANY FOX

She says working more closely with class representatives will be one of her priorities.

At the beginning of the year, every program at Niagara College should have elected two class representatives. They in turn elect three student representatives.

The student representatives relay to SAC the needs and suggestions of the students. This information helps to ensure SAC actions are in sync with what the student body wants to see from student council.

"They (class representatives) have a lot of good ideas," says SAC Student Representative Jason Marazzo, 23, though he notes attendance has been declining at their meetings with the class representatives.

"There's supposed to be two (class representatives) from every class, but there's not as many now as there was earlier in the year. There was about 60 at the meetings in the beginning of the year, there's only about 10 now."

Marazzo began working as a student representative along with Des Roches and fellow SAC student representative Natalie Chambers, 18, in early October.

Like the rest of student council, student representatives partake in all discussions and hold full voting privileges at SAC's weekly executive committee meetings. Yet, unlike the rest of SAC, they do not receive an honorarium.

Currently, executive members of SAC are required to work at least 10 hours a week and receive an honorarium every two weeks.

Jason Chase, SAC president, receives $170. All other executive members receive $140.

Student representatives are required to attend all Niagara College Board of Directors and SAC executive committee meetings and contribute at least five hours a week to student council work.

Glum future for area nurses

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

The future is bleak in Ontario for Niagara College nursing students.

The Ontario government has recommended massive changes to the province's hospital system. The changes are expected to eliminate another 400 full-time jobs from Niagara Region's hospital structure, in addition to the downsizing of 300 jobs already reported.

"This is part-and-parcel of the government's overall agenda," said Welland-Thorold New Democrat MPP Peter Kormos.

Kormos warned the government's measures will put communities across the province at risk.

"Rather than listen to grassroots, the government has placed all the power with the elite and somewhat hand picked."

According to *The Communique*, a registered nurse association magazine, there are about 5,000 people employed in the area's hospital network. The recommendations, if approved by Ontario's Tory government, will be implemented over the next three years.

"There's been no immediate impact on our students," said Nursing program co-ordinator Linda Willms. "However, if hospitals do close over the next year, there might be some impact as far as clinical placements for our students."

Willms said the program has adapted to the changes in health care. She indicated more emphasis is placed on private care in the community.

In the midst of the government's re-engineering of health care and education in the province, the cuts would see the Nursing program at Niagara College end in 1998 and close several hospitals in the area.

"The cost of health care is very high. The province can't keep coming up with the money," said Niagara College nurse Carolyn Hurst.

Hurst also indicated the program offered at the college is very expensive, adding, "the profession has declared nurses need to have a degree."

The changes introduced to health care by the government will work themselves out, she added.

A report produced by the regional Hospital Restructuring Commission says $44.3 million annually would be saved in operational costs because of the consolidation of services. It also states $94.4 million would be re-invested in the system to pay for renovations and expansions that would make the realignments possible.

"I am a bit of an optimist. I see value in some of the things that are happening, but change is always painful," said Willms.

INTERNATIONAL

Argentinian professor visits Niagara College

By RICHARD MANCUSO
and JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writers

Juan Desivo is adding to the increasingly international atmosphere at Niagara College.

For four months in 1996 at Brock University in St. Catharines, and now at Niagara, Desivo has been lecturing on economics, international economics, environmental issues and sustainable development using his home, Argentina, as a case study and paralleling it with Canada.

This gives a "different approach than that of a highly-industrialized country," he said, adding the students tell him "they learn a little more about Canada" because of the Argentinian contrast he presents.

In Argentina, Desivo is the assistant dean of the Universidad Abierta InterAmericana (UAI, the InterAmerican Open University) in Rosario and also works as an adviser for the provincial government "dealing with special issues for small and medium-size businesses. Most professors at the UAI have two or three jobs," said Desivo.

"I (have) a master of economy, a master of business administration and a certified accountant" after spending 14 years in university, said Desivo, after saying he doesn't like to use titles because of different definitions in different educational and business systems.

He said he sees his role at Niagara as a "constructor, one who builds bridges between the students in Argentina and those at Niagara" because he was invited to Niagara College to share his experience teaching about, and dealing with the effects of an increasingly global economy on Argentina.

Despite different geographic backgrounds, Desivo said his students in Argentina and these at Niagara face the same problems in international trade — over exploitation of resources, its future consequences and the impact of foreign trade on labor and the environment.

Argentina is facing the same threats of companies going abroad and rising unemployment that have plagued Canada. Desivo said he talks about how to adjust the economy to deal with changing world economic trends.

He will be teaching at Niagara until February and later this year will be at the National University of Costa Rica teaching International Economics and Economic Development.

"My students are the people who stand in front of me, are willing to listen and exchange knowledge," said Desivo, adding he will go "anywhere there might be a need for learning."

He said he likes Canadian students because they are "respectful" and "make you feel at home."

The message Desivo has for his students at Niagara College has to do with the "particular situation" they are in.

He said he sees them as learning "in the hub of an important region" and they should "take advantage of this.

"Become more internationalized and become aware of the surrounding area — meaning planet Earth. There is much more beyond Ontario's province or the borders of the USA."

Jos Nolle, manager of the International Education Office, and Juan Desivo, assistant dean of the InterAmerican Open University in Rosario, point out Argentina on a map of South America.
Photo by Richard Mancuso

Macedonian student enjoys living in Canada

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

It's not hard to find this six-foot-three-inch-tall Macedonian guy talking in a loud voice at the Welland campus.

He is always ready to start a friendly conversation with anyone, saying, "Hey, how are you?"

Slavé Ilijeski, 20, an English as a Second Language (ESL) program student, came to Canada in May 1996 shortly after graduating from high school in Ohrid, Macedonia.

"I decided to come to Canada because Canada is a peaceful and safe country," said Ilijeski.

Before former Yugoslavia split into Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Yugoslavia (which includes Serbia and Montenegro) in 1991, Ilijeski said all Macedonians were afraid of the war which started in Serbia in 1990.

"I was 14 years old. I remember everything about it. People were afraid of the war, but it didn't happen in my country."

Macedonia became peacefully independent in September 1991 after a referendum.

"During Bosnian war, the army came to my country to get weapons," said Ilijeski. "My country let them take our weapons but didn't want to help them. We never helped them."

He said the Macedonian government had to build shelters for the Bosnian refugees.

Macedonia's economy has been developing fast since its independence, and Ilijeski said the generation gap is also getting bigger.

"Young people can't imagine their life without discotheque, especially Friday night," while older generations prefer "a quiet life," he said.

He said his father has been working for S & H Restoration Co., of New Jersey, and his mother lives in Macedonia with his three sisters — Sonja, 23, Gabriela, 15, and Ana, 11.

"My hometown is protected by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) because of all the historical heritage like statues, buildings, castles, . . ."

Ilijeski lives in a homestay (where international students live as part of the family) with an "excellent" family.

"I have no words to explain the pleasure, living with them," he said.

After school, he said he usually works out in the gym at the college.

Living in Canada is no problem, said Ilijeski with a smile.

"The only thing is I miss my family, friends and language — Macedonian."

Ilijeski said one of the "great" things he has experienced in Canada is to meet his girlfriend Pilar Garcia, 20, of Mexico.

He said, before coming to Canada, he was already attracted to Garcia's picture in a brochure of the Niagara College ESL program.

"I said to my friends, 'I'm going to meet her there.'"

Ilijeski said he met her in August 1996 at the pool party for the international students arranged by one of the homestay families.

"I told my friends in my country, but they didn't believe me," he said, caressing his curly black hair.

After finishing the ESL program, he said he wants to take a computer program at the college.

"I want to be a computer programmer because I can get a job wherever I want in my country."

Ilijeski said he has been studying "very hard." Last December, he won the Most Improved Student Award of the ESL program.

He said he has travelled Bulgaria, Greece, Albania and Serbia and wants to travel all over the world when he finishes his studies in Canada.

"I want to see the world and meet people from different countries."

Slavé Ilijeski, 20, of Macedonia, is showing the map of Macedonia he made and the Macedonian flag at the International Education Office.

Photo by Hyojeong Kim

EDITORIALS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-7669.**

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A 'glowing' problem

More good news.

A high number of Canadian students declared bankruptcy in 1996, this left a $70 million void for the federal government to peer into.

According to statisitics from a Canadian Press news story, 7,850 post-secondary students went bankrupt last year. Five years ago it was 4,500. What will it be five years from now?

How long will it be before the government "zones in" and realizes there is a serious problem with the costs of education?

If the government takes measures and begins to stiffen rules pertaining to student assisistance, less people will be going to school, which in turn, will create a society of less educated people.

And yes, there are individuals who have NO CHOICE but to rely on student assistance to obtain their education because of circumstance.

Unfortunately, the adage "a few bad apples can spoil the bunch" rings true in relation to those students that get "over their heads" financially and inevitably declare bankruptcy.

I predict five years from now things will be worse for educational costs and assistance (if it exists by then).

Right now, I see us, the students and future leaders of tomorrow, as being one of those ultra-violet bug-zappers often seen in people's backyards.

Like the light emitting from the zapper, we glow brightly as the future's positive entity. However, as we burn all-night long, we are wasting energy as any light source does when plugged into a hydro-outlet or resource.

That same energy or resource can be looked at as being financial opportunities we receive from the government.

Then one night, a large moth comes fluttering by. It's entranced by the light it has discovered. A couple of quick fly-bys and then it darts head-first into the flouresence and becomes burnt by an electric field.

In this analogy, who truly gets zapped?

The light or the moth?

Do we, as students, stay strong and resolve our problems so we may continue with our purposes?

Or will the government soon realize there is a "glowing" problem with educational assistance and fly first into the situation and "zap-out" the problem, that being the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)?

Jason Young

No more games

For five months, the open access computer lab (S109) has been available at Niagara College's Welland campus with no classes scheduled.

Students continuously occupy the 75 Pentium computer-stations in this room.

However, what are they doing with the blue screen? This "vax" screen is to be used for E-mail and accessing other Internet services.

Some students use it to chat with people around the world. This chatting uses precious time.

Some students play computer games and never concede the stations to others who need one immediately.

They don't care about fellow students who walk around to find a computer available. Or so it seems. Don't they realize the computer lab's purpose is to help students do their academic work and access the Internet?

The computer lab cost the college more than $300,000. Why did the college have to set it up, at students' urging, spending that much money, if the facility can't be used properly?

Why do we need a computer lab if we have nothing to do but play games and chat with the computer?

When we use the computer lab, we should keep one thing in mind: this room is not only for me; it's for everybody. It's for learning.

Stella-Kim Carey

Letters to the editor

SAC fees worth it

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Brad Moscato's column which appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of the Niagara News.

To start this off, let us look at the Student Administrative Council (SAC) operating budget per student that totals $131. It breaks down to a less-frightening number.

SAC Operating Budget $59, Peer Tutoring $3, Student Handbooks $2, Athletics (varsity) $32, Athletics (intramural) $35 — total $131.

The numbers add up to an efficient and reasonable amount when you look at the services provided, ranging from entertainment, school clubs, xerox lease and expenses, graduation books, satellite campuses, building operations, including repairs and maintenance, charitable donations and administrative fees.

The second part of this response deals with the Buffalo Blizzard's soccer trip that was simply overbooked by human error by two people. Before I continue, I would like to state a comment made by Moscato to another reporter in my presence, that he (Moscato) would like the other reporter to slam council. Well Moscato you have taken that biased remark and put it to paper.

As a human being, I am subject to making errors much like other people in the political eye of the public, but it isn't the end of the world.

Word such as "misspend," "deplorable," and phrases stating lack of leadership ran throughout the column, but I ask, do you not recall my attempts to solve the problem, or my apology made to other members of journalism?

These were not stated in your column. The solution of everybody on the bus pitching in to purchase two extra tickets was offered, but your outspoken voice was silent. Instead of saying yes or no, you all chose to walk off. I am sorry that this occurred, but statements of "lack of communication" and lack of "leadership" are insulting to myself and the other council members.

The trip was a failure in the sense of making back the money to cover the cost of tickets, but it was a success in bringing an opportunity to students who would normally not have been able to afford the opportunity to attend.

It was also a success to let me address the students of Niagara College and restate my leadership capabilities.

Mr. Moscato, it was also a pleasure to bring your words of bias to light; maybe in the future you will offer both sides of the story.

It is very easy to tell one side, but to be a great reporter you will have to look at the fair and critical writing of Adam Kieswetter.

Thank you.

Jason Chase, SAC president
Public Relations post-diploma program student

Thanks to everyone

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank the Law and Security Administration program students for their assistance in publicizing and organizing the recent Student Administrative Council (SAC)-sponsored blood donor clinic.

Over 100 of these incredible students placed 2,000 "tickets" on vehicle windshields, set up and dismantled the clinic, provided traffic control of donors, moved Red Cross equipment and served pop, pizza, coffee and donuts.

Some even dressed as Corpsuckle cuties, Vlad vampires and Bloody Blood Drop. Special mention must go to the Dental Hygiene students who posted and removed more than 400 notices on the college walls and also achieved close to a 50 per cent donation rate, a first in the history of the clinic.

The success of this year's clinic is directly attributed to SAC's involvement. Rhonda Lynn DesRoches, vice-president external affairs, devoted hours to organizing the refreshments, pizza, vehicle tickets and the sign-out table. It was a pleasure to work with Rhonda and the other members of SAC. They are a dedicated and enthusiastic group.

I am most grateful to Jennifer Harding (a Niagara News staff writer) for her excellent articles before, during and after the clinic, to Jackie DeForest (Information Services) for the reminder message on the VAX, to Jennifer McComb (Educational Resources and Special Needs program student) for the attractive bulletin board outside the clinic, to Versa for donating the coffee and supplies and to Fred Bassi (athletic department) for rearranging classes and intermural activities to ensure minimal disruption during the day.

Once again, Kerry Nicholls, Cecil Grypstra, Daryn Eden, Bob Langhor and Peggy Farquharson worked overtime to prepare the gym floor, provide tables and chairs and assist with the clean up. Their efforts were most appreciated.

A final message to the students who waited patiently to donate their "Gift of Life" — most of you were first time donors and perhaps apprehensive — but you did it!

Thank you so much and please continue the tradition.

Jan Potton
Psychology professor
Co-ordinator of the clinic

FROM THE HIP

Mike Harris brings forth revolutionary changes

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

It has been an extraodinary year at Queen's Park.

Sweeping changes by the province's Tory government will affect virtually all aspects of life.

The announcements Mike Harris and the Progressive Conservatives have brought to the province have been carefully orchestrated and outline a brave revolution.

As the government sees it, the intent of the campaign is benign and the outcome will be beneficial. However, many people dispute the government's actions and have communicated their disapproval. Here are some notable comments I pulled from articles I wrote for the Niagara News:

On massive cuts to education:

• "Education is underfunded and is working on a shoestring budget," said Welland-Thorold New Democrat MPP Peter Kormos.

• "The quality of education has declined and will continue to decline if more money is not spent on post-secondary education. Students are paying more money than ever to get less education," said Dr. Douglas B. Rogers, a Niagara College teacher and member of the Golden Horseshoe Action Committee.

• "The quality of education we are able to provide is related to the government ensuring that learning institutions have the funding available to properly train students," said a spokesperson for Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 243 at Niagara College. "Nothing less is acceptable and if the government tampers with the educational system in the interests of cutting costs, we feel that it is tampering with the collective future of all."

• "I am fearful that we will go back to the days when college and university education is for the elite," said Welland Councillor Dianne Grenier.

About the tax cut:

• "I don't agree that the income tax cut was wise at this time with Ontario battling an $8 billion a year deficit," said Mike Collins, a teacher at Niagara College and member of the Liberal Party. He is also a St. Catharines councillor.

• "The ill-conceived tax cut was politically popular, but it is the working class of Ontario paying for it in huge cuts to education and health care," said St. Catharines Liberal MPP Jim Bradley.

On the future of Ontario:

• "Neither Mike Harris nor his backbenchers have any interest in the quality of life issues. At the end of the day they are hurting the working class of Ontario, students, seniors and communities," said Kormos.

• "The cuts by this government are a sheer destruction to the quality of life for a vast majority of people in this province," said Rogers.

Health-care restructuring:

• "It's time to stop playing games. Closing beds and throwing people out of work does not lead to better care," said former leader of Ontario's Liberal party, Lyn McLeod.

On democracy:

• "The government has an obsession with centralization. They are putting communities such as the Niagara Region at risk," said Kormos, on the number of MPPs at Queen's Park being reduced to 103 from 130.

And on workfare:

• "The proposal is pure politics at its cynical worst. It is designed to create an illusion of the response to joblessness when, in fact, it doesn't create any jobs at all," said Kormos.

This is not to say Harris will rest content. He and his backbenchers know where they are on the road to excellence, and they are committed to pursue their way along that road with all the determination on their side.

At least they think.

As inevitable gaffe's occur, the political advantage will shift to the opposition. Harris and his government may yet be the losers.

However, if the government does not slow its actions, the biggest loser could be the citizens of the province and their quality of life.

Religious upheaval

Staff Writer

There is much wrong with the world today, much that has been plaguing mankind since the earliest times.

One of the things people turn to for guidance when things look bleakest is one of the largest contributing factors to the problems we suffer. It is called organized Christian religion.

I'm not saying religion doesn't have its place and that it should not exist. People have turned their lives around, stopped drinking,stopped beating their wives and children, and stopped doing drugs, all after turning to religion.

Their religion seems to fill a void in their lives that only self-indulgence or violence could fill before. It gave them something to believe in and has genuinely helped them.

But then there is the ugly side of religion. The side more often in the news. The side that has caused mankind trouble since history was first recorded.

The ancient gods of Greece were said to war against one another, in turn causing their followers to war with one another, killing many and proving nothing.

But it wasn't just ancient Greece; it was ancient everywhere.

Wars over religion have lasted centuries and broken up countries. The crusades were fought in the name of God to punish those heathens who didn't believe His words.

The Inquisition saw the grotesque torture, maiming and killing of thousands. All in the name of spreading God's word.

I always thought God's message was to turn the other cheek and to show tolerance towards all. But religion has been the biggest purveyor of intolerance the world has known.

sets state: if you don't believe the same thing as us, you can't be in our club. And even though we will act tolerant towards you, we will look down our noses at your beliefs and see you as being below us.

We will go into other countries and take away their religious identities to replace it with our own. I will knock on your door and tell you that you can't get to heaven because you aren't the same denomination as I am.

If you work at a medical center with an abortion clinic, we will block the patients' ways in and out. We will verbally assault you. We will deface the property. On occasion we will even go so far as blowing things up or killing people outright.

All of this in the name of my God, whose Son came to mortal earth to preach love and peace.

This is the message being sent throughout North America and the world in general.

Look at what we have done to each other in the names of our respective gods. Is this their message? If it indeed is; do we want or need this message?

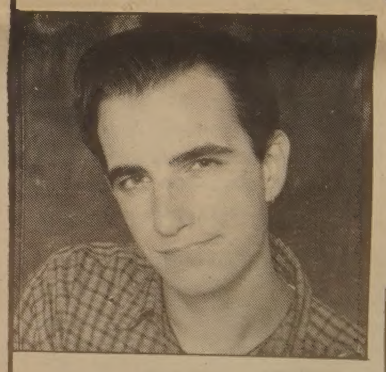
Is there a place for this religion-caused violence in a world which is already plagued with man's inhumanity to man? I say no.

If you're religious, that's fine; but don't try to force it down anyone's throat. This will inevitably cause some degree of violence, and violence only begets violence. This has been proven time and again.

Maybe there should be a don't-ask-don't-tell policy attached to religion.

Everything is a double-edged sword. With religion it seems that one edge cuts better than the other.

Searching for school spirit



By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

No one will deny Student Administrative Council (SAC) has a presence around Niagara College, albeit a limited one.

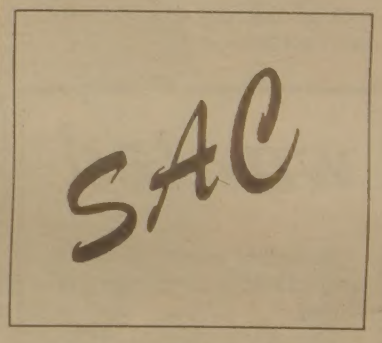
The extent of the presence, however, could be equated with that of Waldo. You know he's there somewhere on that puzzle, but unless you really concentrate on finding him, his whereabouts will elude you.

The response one gets from most students after asking them about SAC is about equal to what you get when you try to milk a horse: "Hey, man! I'm not getting anything here!"

It's easy to remain ignorant about SAC. Most students don't realize they collectively give student council about $650,000 every year. Even less know that most of that money is directed towards collegiate athletics.

Students give SAC this money (the $131 activity fee tacked onto tuition) and are in essence paying student council to show them a good time (via SAC events) and to act as their representatives in defining and fighting for the student body's needs.

SAC doesn't always do this effectively (i.e. Buffalo Blizzard ticket bungling and a lackluster Student Technology Enhancement Committee performance). As a columnist, I find it's easy to write about things like that — it makes good news.



Some occasional blunders occur, but SAC does govern democratically from time to time.

A prime example would be Snowfest. When second-year General Arts and Science program student Dona Belanger, dressed smartly and articulating clearly, went to a Jan. 15 SAC meeting and politely told those assembled he and the rest of his team (who won first-place last year) thought the scheduled activities for this year were "stupid," it was a one of those historically echoing moments for students at Niagara College.

Belanger had gotten together with his old team and then incoming SAC vice-president athletics Joe Habib, and set out to revamp Snowfest.

"We were the winning team last year, and basically we said, 'you have to change it or we're not going to come out.'"

During the meeting, Belanger told council Snowfest had too many individual events, because SAC had cancelled some of the most popular events, such as the tug-of-war and air-band competition, there would be markedly low attendance. Snowfest contributed to a healthy school spirit, and right now, said Belanger, "there's none.

"We just wanted to see something happen, if we didn't say anything it would have just stayed the same."

Bravo SAC for revamping Snowfest so readily at the students' request. But especially, bravo Belanger!

Why does his quick trip to the SAC office warrant such an accolade? At a school where spirit is about as lacking as pepperoni on a piece of vegetarian pizza, Belanger's coming forward is striking.

In terms of school spirit, Niagara College is a school that has the paint peeling off the walls faster than it has the student body speaking or acting energetically about anything.

SAC blames poor spirit on students for not wanting to get involved. If students knew or cared about SAC, they would probably blame it for not providing more interesting and stimulating activities.

They both may be right. If students don't want to participate in SAC events, student council should find out why. If students don't like the way things are done, they shouldn't just complain but work for change.

JUSTICE

Crime Stoppers awards Niagara News

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

The Niagara News was one of 13 newspapers receiving awards on an appreciation evening for friends of Crime Stoppers at Chateau Des Charmes Wines in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Jan. 22.

The Niagara News is produced at Niagara College in Welland by second-year Journalism-Print program students.

"The evening was designed to acknowledge individuals and organizations, including media, who work alongside and make the partnership work," said Constable Mark Sargeson, of the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Before the presentations of certificates to those who have contributed to the success of Crime Stoppers, guests were treated to wine and cheese.

There were 71 awards presented at the ceremony.

The Crime Stoppers Board of Directors and Niagara Regional Police Chief J. Grant Waddell attended.

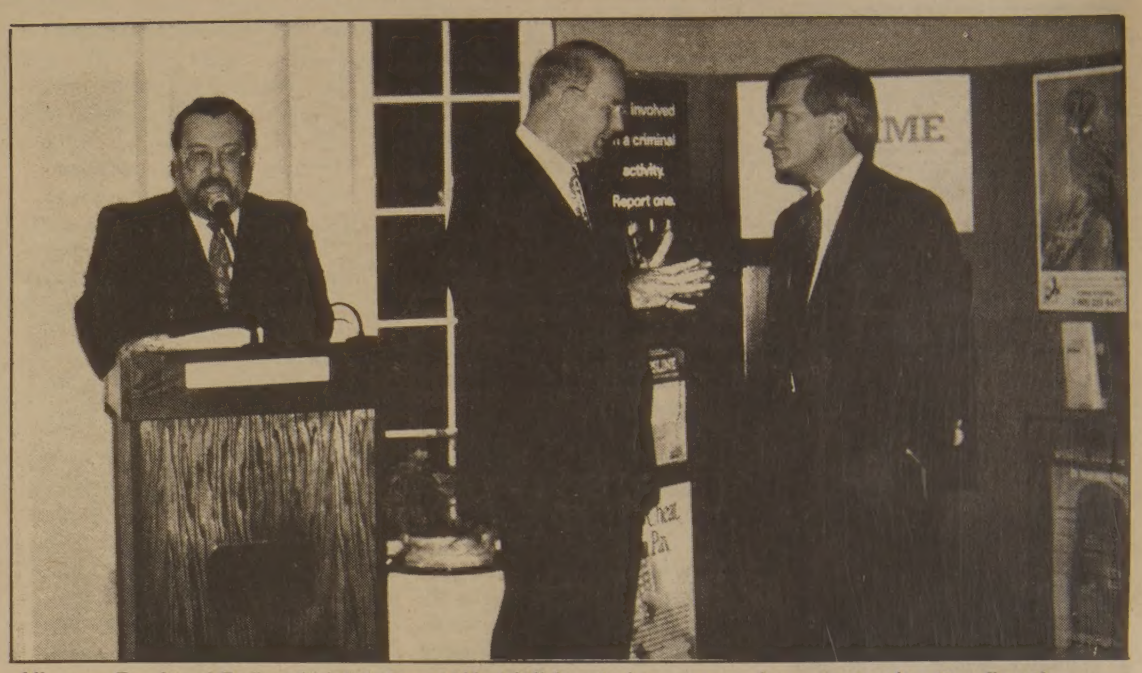
"The media helps us by putting stories in the paper and on the radio," said Sargeson. "They are really the lifeline to Crime Stoppers."

Crime Stoppers started in the Niagara Region in 1985. It is a private corporation and one of 39 Crime Stoppers programs in Ontario.

"It's run like a company but each one is separate. They all basically beat to the same drum," said Sargeson.

From January 1996 to December 1996, Sargeson said "provincewide, 6,755 cases were solved, 3,598 individuals were arrested, $9 million in property recovered, $18 million in drugs recovered and $415,000 in rewards."

For the Niagara Region, Sargeson said, "they solved 145 cases last year, recovered $100,000 in property and drugs combined and paid out about $5,000 in rewards."



Niagara Regional Police Chief J. Grant Waddell (centre) was one of many people attending the friends of Crime Stoppers appreciation evening at Chateau Des Charmes Wines in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Jan. 22.

Photos by Janice Poole

Symposium highlights community policing

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

The Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) held its third annual community policing symposium at Westlane Secondary School in Niagara Falls on Jan. 25.

The event consisted of a variety of displays, exhibits, workshops and panel discussions on various community policing issues.

"We've got a lot of good information available," said Sergeant Laurie Leonard, of the NRPS. "It's a real cross-section of topics."

The keynote speaker was Priscilla de Villiers, president of Canadians Against Violence Everywhere Advocating Its Termination (CAVEAT).

She gave a half-hour presentation dealing with the partnership between CAVEAT and the NRPS.

"CAVEAT is acting like a catalyst, sharing various information on victims of crimes issues, developing education and awareness and making the community and police look at concerns very seriously," said Leonard.

Displays and exhibits presented by the NRPS included: Tactical Unit, Bomb Disposal Unit, Canine Unit, Traffic Unit, Bicycle Patrol Unit and Underwater Search and Recovery Unit.

In addition to the displays and exhibits, workshops focusing on youth were held throughout the day.

The first workshop session dealt with hate bias/racism and youth, and safe schools.

The second workshop dealt with community programs for youth such as ALATEEN (a program designed for the younger family member of a problem drinker), victim offender reconciliation and peer counselling.

"We expected about 250 delegates to ask questions," said Leonard. "These delegates are made up of a variety of stakeholders across Niagara that are involved in one way or another in community policing programs."

After the workshops and lunch, a panel discussion was held on volunteers making a difference.

Included in the seven-member panel was Niagara College Law and Security Administration program graduate Shennon Simpell.

Leonard said the first two symposiums were designed to "showcase" what community policing programs were doing around Niagara.

"Community participation has grown considerably since then," said Leonard. "This year, we took a pro-active approach to see what we could do as a community and as police to make Niagara a safer place."

Suspect wanted

Niagara Regional Police have released this sketch of a man wanted in connection with a sexual assault of a woman at a Niagara Falls church on Jan. 16.

The suspect, who was weilding a pair of scissors, is believed to be in his early 20s.

He walked into the church at about 12:30 p.m. seeking conselling.

The victim received several lacerations and required medical attention.

The suspect is described as a white male, about five feet five inches tall, weighing about 150 to 160 pounds with a medium build.

He had short, dark brown or black hair and was clean shaven.

He was wearing a waist-length, light-colored ski jacket.

Police are warning residents to be cautious.

CRIME STOPPERS OF NIAGARA

Valuable advice

Many employers inadvertently create opportunity for crime.

Be responsible and take action to reduce the risk of being victimized.

Crime Stoppers regularly receive tips about crime in the workplace including information on thefts, robberies and frauds. Office and business security is important.

Don't leave notes telling criminals the staff is out for lunch or will be back in an hour.

Don't allow strangers to wander through offices or business facilities.

Lock your belongings such as purses and jackets in a secure area and establish a reception or visitor waiting area.

Business owners should reduce the risk of burglary by installing proper lighting inside and out, making sure doors and windows have adequate locks and protecting all facilities with an alarm system.

Limit the number of keys in the hands of employees and always check the premises to make sure a burglar isn't being locked inside at closing.

Locks and safe combinations should be changed whenever keys are lost or an employee leaves the company.

At night, cash drawers should be emptied and left open to discourage a burglar from breaking in and causing unnecessary damage.

All business equipment should be properly marked to assist with identification if stolen.

If you have any information about a business break-in or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477 or 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000.

In all, cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

Plague missing

This week Crime Stoppers and Niagara Regional Police investigators are looking for information concerning the theft of a historic plaque from the town of Lincoln.

Around Oct. 22, 1996, a bronze plaque was removed from a wooden post on the south side of Regional Road 81 between 15th and 17th Streets, Lincoln.

The historic marker had been erected to designate the former site of Raunchy's Tavern during the 1800s.

The plaque, with raised letters on a blue blackground, is valued at $2,200.

If you have any information regarding this theft or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477 or 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000.

In all cases, you will not have to reveal your identity.

College president relaunches information campaign

By JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writer

Service clubs are in the future for Dan Patterson.

Patterson, Niagara College's president, gave a speech to the Niagara Falls Kiwanis Club on Jan. 2. That meeting inspired him to relaunch an informative financial campaign aimed at service clubs and community groups throughout Niagara Region.

The president has recently talked to the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce.

Patterson said his presentation gave the Kiwanians "an overview of the college and its programs," and explained "how we were positioning ourself" in the community as an economic player.

The president said he talked about the financial hardships students are facing and voiced his concern over "students not being able to finish programs they've started."

The purpose of the meeting was not to ask for donations, but Patterson did raise the government's pledge to match dollar for dollar any monies donated to bursaries.

In the end, Patterson said, the Kiwanians made "no commitments," but they have been introduced to the college's capital campaign.

After his 30-minute speech, Patterson said he left the Kiwanians with college information, a guide to continuing education, and a brochure on the capital campaign.

There is talk of addressing more service clubs and community groups because between "this (meeting) and the meeting with local politicians at the Maid of the Mist Centre (in Niagara Falls) a couple of weeks ago, we learned we need to get the message of our mission" out to the people, said Patterson, adding this became obvious when the Niagara Falls Kiwanians were surprised to learn Niagara College offers call centre training.

"I don't know if we have to do a video or commercials," said Patterson with a grin.

Patterson said he has talked to Lyn Russo, the college's director of communications and planning, about the possibility of going from community to community to bring people up-to-date on issues like the college's Master Plan and the progress on the new residence.

Lawrence Naftulin was the chief executive officer for fund-raising at Niagara until he left the position last August. Now there is no full-time fund-raiser, and Patterson said they are trying to "keep the momentum going." The search for a new Executive Director of Development entered the interview stage this week.

He said he feels it is "necessary to first get the message out to the community groups and service clubs," adding those involved must do a "better job of explaining" the services the college offers.

"This will encourage people into continuing education," and other involvement with the college. "With 400 offerings in continuing education, we have to constantly bring in new students and there are changes every year."

Niagara College considers "perpetual learners" as an important target in its marketing strategy, said Patterson.

After this message has gone out, the next step is to "solicit support by contribution," Patterson said.

The campaign will be brought to the service clubs increasingly throughout the spring.

Patterson said it all ties in to the college's "responsibility to serve the community."

Leon Lowry pushes through the snow at the Welland campus.

Photo By Owen Baggott

Getting around campus in wheelchair difficult

By OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writer

Leon Lowry has "a lot of respect for Niagara College," but he also has a few complaints.

Lowry, who is taking the Volunteer Management course through the Continuing Education program, has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

"I don't want to cause trouble for anyone. I just want to make people aware of the problems," said Lowry, while explaining the problems with wheelchair access at the college.

Lowry said the biggest accessibility problem at the school is snow because it is not properly cleared. Thus it is difficult for him to get from building to building in a wheelchair.

Lowry said he often has trouble getting through piles of snow and getting through doors when the door-opening buttons don't work. Many of these access buttons have been broken since before Christmas.

"Quite a few students have been quite helpful to me."

Lowry said he would like to see the maintenance of the school improve, adding potholes in the walkways are not only hazardous for wheelchairs, but also "disgraceful."

Lowry said since starting at Niagara College in 1988 "there have been a numerous amount of things made (wheelchair) accessible, but there is a lot more room for improvement."

Bake sales raise money for documentaries

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

What do baking and film have in common?

Nothing, except when it means that third-year Niagara College film students in the Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film program are trying to raise money for their documentaries.

The responsibility of fund-raising has been given to Kim Wilson, 21, a third-year film student.

Wilson says she plans to have a bake sale every other Tuesday.

The next one is scheduled for Feb. 4. The most recent one was "successful," raising about $100.

Wilson says they will be setting up a Web site, which will publicize the fund-raising. It will be asking for donations and "anyone who donates money will receive a credit in a film."

The donation will have to be at least $20 in order to receive this title. It is similar to a producer investing in a major motion picture.

There are four, 20-minute documentaries being made, including Blue Rodeo, Glass Blowing, Canadian Identity and Buskers.

The Canadian Identity film, for example, has an estimated budget of about $2,000, which mainly consists of travelling expenses.

The money raised will be going towards the overall budgets, including any expenses the documentaries may require.

Students check out their favorite band photos at the photo sale.

Photo by Robert Hallett

Photos of Bush X and The Hip were hot sellers at sale

As long as you stay new and fresh you can keep going

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

Concert photographs on sale by two enterprising photographers caught the interest of students in front of Niagara College's Welland campus bookstore last week.

Holding the sale on Jan. 22 and 23 were Jeff Blake, 36, and Steve Bellyk, 33, of London, Ont.

Blake and Bellyk have been selling photographs of music bands throughout Ontario for about 12 years. They take their own photographs as well as order photographs from a catalogue and lease negatives from other photographers.

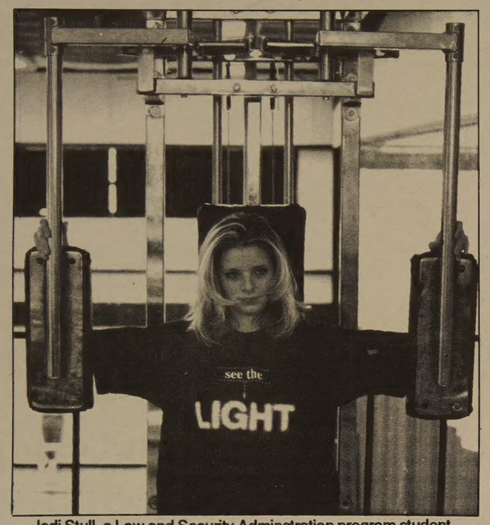
Photographs date from the late 1960s to the present. Sizes range from eight inches by 10 inches to 16 by 20 inches. Prints are available in color or black and white. Prices range from $7 to $20.

Bellyk said new photographs for this year are Nine Inch Nails, Pearl Jam, Nirvana, and The Tragically Hip. He said the hot sellers this year are Bush X and The Tragically Hip.

Other artists included were I Mother Earth, Metallica, Tori Amos and Rush.

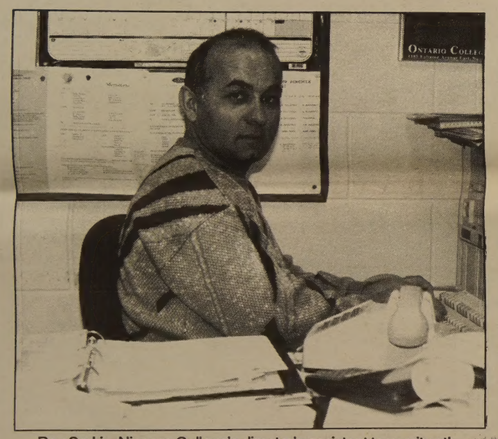
"As long as you stay new and fresh you can keep going," said Bellyk.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Jodi Stull, a Law and Security Adminstration program student, works up a sweat at the Fitness Centre.

Photo by Mike Hastings



Ray Sarkis, Niagara College's director's assistant to varsity athletics, working out on his computer.

Photo by Mike Hastings

Dave Dempster, a Law and Security Adminstration program student, sweats it out at the Fitness Centre.

Photo by Mike Hastings

YMCA: going strong

By GRETTA ROSSI
and JHIM BURWELL
Staff Writers

With only four months until the beaches open, the Welland Area Family YMCA is a good fitness opportunity for Niagara College students.

A Niagara College student card brought to the front desk of the YMCA on Main Street provides access to swimming, aerobics classes, and memberships at student rates.

"We've seen an increase in Niagara College students," said Mimi Price, manager of the Welland Area Family YMCA.

Activities at the Y include two weight rooms with Global and Body Master weight equipment, free weights, Lifecycles, Stairmasters and Concept II rowing machines, and the pool has a diverse recreational swimming schedule including lane swims and aquafit.

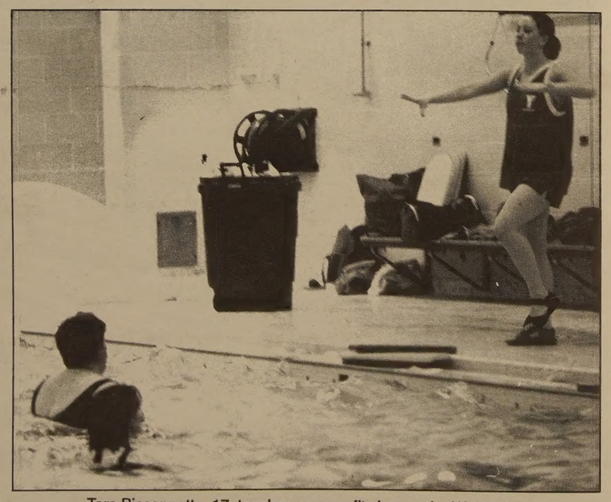
Then there are the aerobics classes — designed to strengthen and tone — that run throughout the day.

Daily fees provide the opportunity to try the fitness centre equipment out.

Lockers are provided in the men's and women's change rooms, though you have to provide your own lock, and showers, saunas and personal workout programs can be arranged to fit your schedule.

The Y has had a membership boom in the last few years and is campaigning to raise the funds to build a new facility, better suited for the increased use.

For more information on memberships or activities, call the Welland YMCA at (905) 735-5484.



Tara Bissonnette, 17, teaches an aquafit class at the Welland Area Family YMCA.

Photo by Gretta Rossi

Work off stress

By MIKE HASTINGS
Staff Writer

Students who are stressed out with their studies or for those who have a ridiculous two to three-hour spare between classes, this is for you.

You can work off the stress or kill some time by visiting the Niagara College Fitness Centre in the Mackenzie Building next to the gymnasium.

The Fitness Centre is open to full-time students, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

It is equipped with exercise bikes, stair masters and a variety of weight machines.

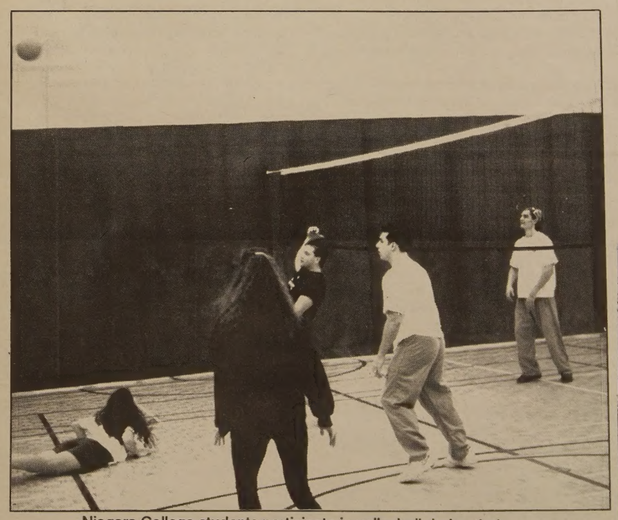
Ray Sarkis, the college's director assistant to varsity athletics, said the college is working on opening the Fitness Centre on weekends when the new residence opens in September.

The Fitness Centre is closed when there is a varsity game or when there is fitness testing for programs such as the Law and Security Administration and Ambulance and Emergency Care.

There is a schedule on the wall at the centre, posting the times when the centre is available.

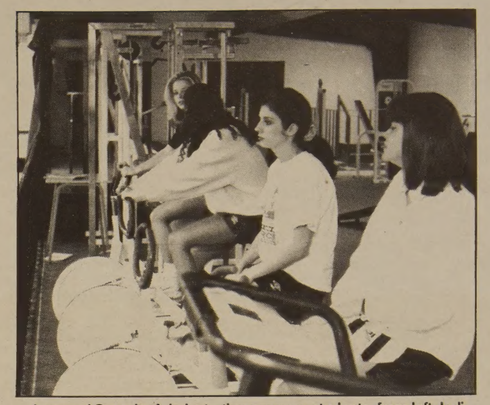
"There are staff on hand to help you set up a workout program," said Sarkis.

The next time you feel stressed or bored with your marathon spare, why don't you visit the Niagara College Fitness Centre.



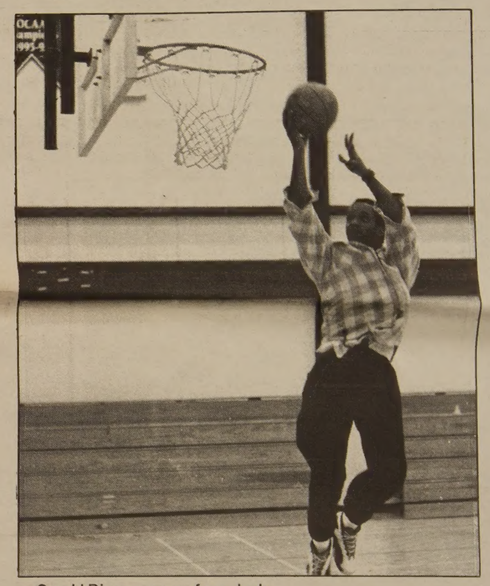
Niagara College students participate in volleyball during their gym class.

Photo by Derrick Vander-Lely



Law and Security Adminstration program students, from left Jodi Stull, Lori Gordon, Michelle Ferrante and Charlene Simms, ride a stationary bike in the Fitness Centre.

Photo by Mike Hastings



Gerald Dixon goes up for a dunk.

Photo by Derrick Vander-Lely

Tara Petrachenko, Brian Bleich and Andrea Flindall huddle during a varsity basketball game against Mohawk College of Hamilton.

Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

DENTAL HYGIENE

Co-ordinator scaling back

CAROLE ONO

By KATHERINE NADEAU
Staff Writer

After serving as a co-ordinator for most of her 35 years in education, Carole Ono is returning to teaching.

Ono, co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene and Intraoral Dental assisting programs, will finish the term as co-ordinator and will stay on at Niagara College as a teacher.

Carol Barr-Overholt will replace her.

Ono was chair and co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene and Assistant programs at Seneca College in Toronto for 19 years before applying at Niagara College.

"I decided to take the opportunity because they (Niagara College) were reinstating the program. The challenge of essentially kick-starting a program is, to some extent, like starting a whole new program," she said.

She has been the co-ordinator of both programs for two years. Prior to that she was the co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene program.

Ono said she has seen many positive changes during her five years here.

"Educators in Ontario have been trying for a long time to get a change in the programming. The Dental Hygiene program was very compressed, making it very stressful for the students."

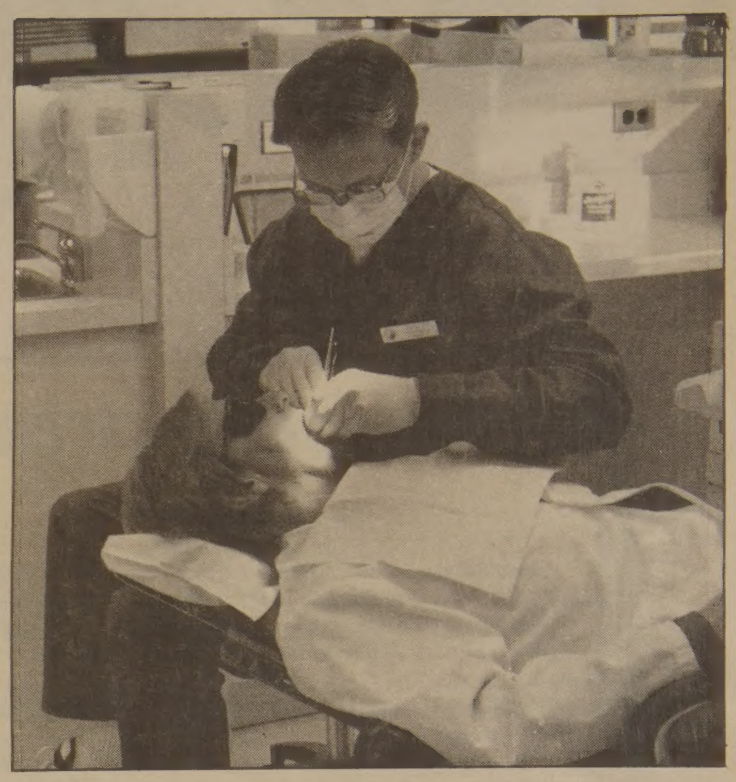
Niagara College is the first college in Ontario offering Dental Hygiene as a two-year program. It began last August.

During renovations last summer, four new working stations were added to the dental clinic. Two radiography rooms have been turned into full working stations to help accommodate a record enrolment of 94 students. There were 36 students the previous year.

"The radiography rooms are set up more like a dental office now with a regular delivery system for dental procedures," said Ono.

"With the large number of students we have, and the clinics essentially running from 8:30 in the morning until 8:30 at night, down-time with equipment is a concern. Now if we have a repair that can't be made the same day we can move the students into the radiography room."

The Dental Clinic is located on the third floor of the Simcoe wing at the Welland campus and offers a variety of dental services for the public and students.



First-year Dental Hygiene program students William Birdsall, 23, top, and Rob Burns, 43, both of St. Catharines, during a pre-clinic exercise.

Photo by Katherine Nadeau

Preparing for clients

Dental Hygiene program first-year students Linda Gualtieri, left, and Jennifer Turner practice x-ray techniques on the DXTRR.

Photo by Gord Wittenberg

By GORD WITTENBERG
Staff Writer

Two Dental Hygiene program students say they are looking forward to getting extra experience in the new extended program.

Jennifer Turner, 24, of Niagara Falls, is a first-year dental hygiene student furthering her interest in becoming a clinician.

"I want to work in an orthodontist's office after I graduate - that's where patients come to get their teeth straightened - or (work) possibly in the community health field teaching school-age children fluoride rinses and how to detect cavities," she says.

First-year Niagara College Dental Hygiene program student Linda Gualtieri, 27, of Niagara Falls, says she likes the new two-year program.

"Expanding to a two-year program helps not to make things so condensed and that gives us more hours to work in the clinic compared to other colleges so we will be well prepared for the outside world."

As part of their training, in the radiography room the students learn and practice perfecting x-ray techniques on the DXTTR (pronounced Dexter) mannequin, a human skull and teeth encased in molded plastic resembling a human head.

The students use a lead apron when giving x-rays to prevent any possibility of radiation contamination. "Safety always comes first," says Gualtieri.

After the students have gained experience and confidence on the DXTRR, they are ready for a client, who should feel comfortable with the student.

"That depends on how the clinician presents themselves to the patient," says Gualtieri. "If the clinician is not confident in approaching the situation, or not sure of themselves or not presenting themselves in a manner that they have been taught, the client won't feel comfortable. People skills are also an asset."

Record enrolment in program

By KATHERINE NADEAU
Staff Writer

Niagara is the first college in Ontario to offer Dental Hygiene as a two-year program and the year has started with a record enrolment.

"There has been an incredible interest in coming to Niagara. In hygiene we started off with 94 students and that is probably the largest dental hygiene class in the history of North America," said Carole Ono, co-ordinator of the Dental Hygiene and Intraoral Dental Assisting programs. Last year there were 36 students enrolled.

Ono said offering the Dental Hygiene program as a two-year course of studies should relieve some of the stress on the students.

"In the old program, the students were in classes anywhere from 32 to 36 hours a week. It was tough, they were here from morning to night."

Dental hygientists are trained to provide client-centred dental hygiene care using a process of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation.

Laurie Deutsch, 27, of Cambridge, Ont., a first-year Dental Hygiene program student, said she feels the future role of dental professionals will be that of preventative care.

"As more of the population is aging and are interested in keeping their teeth, preventative care is becoming more important," she said. "Dealing with seniors requires special consideration. For example, we evaluate what we see during an oral observation and help build on what the patient already knows. If dexterity is causing a problem in cleaning their teeth perhaps there is a modification that would help."

Deutsch attended Durham College in Oshawa and worked for seven years as a dental assistant. She says the first part of the program has been a refresher for her.

"I always knew that I wanted to go on to dental hygiene and I think it's great to have the extra year," she said. "There is a lot of work involved."

The program accepts students who have just graduated from high school, provided they meet all other requirements.

"Ontario previously had what we call a step-ladder program where one had to first graduate from a dental assistant program and go out and work for a year before they could apply for a dental hygiene program," said Ono.

Sherry Watson, 23, of London, Ont., a first-year Dental Hygiene program student, attended St. Clair College in Windsor and worked as a dental assistant for two and a half years.

She said the independence of working as a hygienist was one of the reasons she decided to return to school.

"I prefer to work directly with the clients as opposed to being at the beck and call of the dentist," said Watson.

Laurie Deutsch demonstrates proper brushing techniques to Sherry Watson. Both are first-year Dental Hygiene program students.

Photo by Katherine Nadeau

FOLKLORE & FAUNA

Lions Club goes 'hog-wild' for Feb. 3

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

The cold winds that have blown in snow clouds might actually bring a forecast of an early spring.

The myth behind Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, says if the groundhog sees its shadow and is scared back into its underground home, then winter weather will persist for another six weeks.

If the clouds prevent a shadow, the groundhog will stay above ground, anticipating an early spring.

According to Collier's Encyclopedia, Groundhog Day is "generally believed to have originated in the United States." The encyclopedia links the special day to Europe through the tradition of celebrating Candlemas Day, also on Feb. 2.

A more practical explanation springs forth in the February/March issue *Mother Earth News*. An article on seasons in the publication attributes the North American Groundhog Day to the German and British tradition of hibernating animals (bears or badgers) coming out of their caves or dens to test the air temperature.

Despite the origin of the day, Feb. 2 roughly marks the halfway point between the winter solstice and spring equinox, an appropriate time to be looking for the onset of spring.

Early spring or prolonged winter aside, the Fenwick Lions Club awaits the third annual arrival of Fenwick Flossie (a costumed-groundhog) on Monday, Feb. 3.

The Lions Club decided to put off the festivities until Monday so school children could be involved, says Gord House, former president of the organization.

Charlie Patterson, Lions Club president, says students from the elementary schools E.W. Farr Memorial in Port Robinson, St. Ann in Fenwick and Pelham Centre in Pelham have been invited to welcome a life-sized Flossie from her man-made burrow of tables, straw and snow.

Following Flossie's visit, the students will go into the Lion's clubhouse to warm up with hot chocolate and cookies.

Anyone wishing to join in the festivities, which are open to the public, can go to the Lion's clubhouse, 999 Church St., Fenwick, at 10 a.m. Monday.

Chilly Willie soon emerges

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Canada's famous weather forecaster is gearing up, in his sleep, for a special appearance.

Every Feb. 2, Wiarton Willie emerges from hibernation just long enough to perform his annual act. He has held this important position for more than 40 years, and during this time he has been accurate more than 90 per cent of the time.

Wiarton Willie is an albino groundhog born on the Bruce Peninsula in north-central Ontario, a rocky piece of land between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. He was born precisely on the 45th parallel — the centre between the Equator and the North Pole.

Willie's job is quite simple, if it is sunny he will see his shadow and there will be six more weeks of winter. If it's overcast and there is no shadow, then an early spring is predicted.

The annual Groundhog Day Festival draws more than 7,500 visitors a year. There is an abundance of activities to take part in, like sporting events, outdoor games, parades, and there is plenty of entertainment and food to go around.

Dave Robinson is a Canadian artist who has sculpted the world's largest stone sculpture of a groundhog, appropriately named "Willie Emerging," which can be seen in Bluewater Park along the shore of Colpoy's Bay.

With the generous amount of snow and cold temperatures we have received this winter, here's hoping that Wiarton Willie and Mother Nature will send us an early spring.

Pet care program gets 'great response'

By SAMANTHA GOLDWIN
Staff Writer

Niagara College is introducing a new Pet Care Worker certificate program for those individuals starting a career in pet shops, kennels, animal hospitals and Humane Societies.

"We got a great response from students, our capacity is 25, and we filled that amount. We actually moved into a bigger room to allow some other students on a waiting list to join the program," said Sheila Tomovic, development officer for Continuing Education.

The course started Jan. 21 and is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 - 10 p.m. until May 1 at the St. Catharines campus on Wellandvale Road.

Issues covered in the classes will entail basic grooming procedures for dogs, cats and small animals; basic first aid, nutrition, exercise and CPR for dogs and cats; general care for animals and sanitation procedures for kennels and pet shops.

"The hands-on aspect really seems to interest people. We'll be grooming dogs, like proper clipping of nails, and combing animals," said course instructor Dave McMahon, himself a trainer with 15 years' experience at his dog training academy in Niagara Falls.

The course will be offered again in the spring term. Look for further notice from Continuing Education.

Groundhog Day captured on film

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

What if there were no tomorrow?

In the movie *Groundhog Day* (1993), directed by Harold Ramis, Phil Conners (Bill Murray), a snotty weather reporter at a Pittsburgh TV station, is in Punxsutawney, Pa., to report on the Groundhog Day festivities with a cameraman and his producer, Rita (Andie Macdowell).

"Once a year the eyes of the nation turn to this tiny hamlet in Western Pennsylvania to watch a master work. Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most famous weatherman . . . "

Trying to make his way back to Pittsburgh, the reporter becomes trapped by a blizzard in Punxsutawney.

The next day Conners finds Groundhog Day repeating itself, yet he is the only one who is aware of it.

Every day, he wakes up at 6 a.m., in the same hotel room. Every day is Groundhog Day and he has to report it.

There's no tomorrow for Conners.

Whatever he's done for the day disappears the next morning when he wakes up with the song *I've got you babe* by Sonny and Cher, blaring from the clock radio.

Through this reporter's experience, the movie shows how precious life is and how much good car be done in only one day. Many people live a day without knowing its value.

As time goes by, he realizes the value of life and love. Then he tries to make every day valuable by learning things and helping other people.

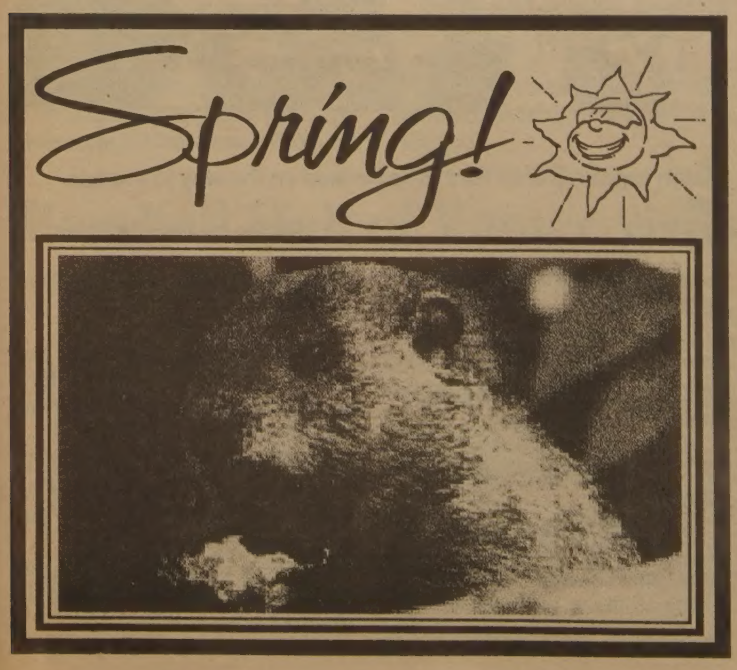
One day, he reports the festival by saying, ". . . standing here among the people of Punxsutawney, basking in the warmth of their hearts and hearths, I couldn't imagine a better fate than a long and lustrous winter. From Punxsutawney, it's Bill Conners. So long."

That day he finally accomplishes everything he planned during all the other Groundhog Days he had spent in Punxsutawney.

After all, tomorrow does come, yet Conners has been changed to a totally different kind of person from what he was.

Repeated scenes in this romantic comedy tend to make the movie boring, but the film leads viewers to guess what's going to happen in the next scene.

Spend some time in the afternoon on this movie. It will give you a good change.



Purr-r-r-fect . . .

Humane Society volunteer Irene Mourik gives attention to a stray cat.

Photo by Jennifer Elliott

SPORTS

Niagara's all-star will do anything to make the playoffs

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Making the playoffs by scoring and playing defence is all Niagara's guard Mike Harris wants to do before he graduates.

Harris, 21, of Niagara Falls, Ont., is in his second "and final" year of the Business Retail Managment program at Niagara College. He's the starting guard for the men's basketball team and earned himself a trip to this year's league all-star game on Jan. 25 at Durham College in Oshawa.

The 6'3", 185 lbs., native said he started playing basketball in public school and "loved" it so much he stuck with it.

"I like playing defence and scoring but defence is pretty much what I like to do best," said Harris, who's averaging 23 points per game by week's end. "Like in the Lambton game, shutting their big guy down. I like that feeling because he's the second leading scorer in the league and I shut him down in the second half; it felt nice."

Harris said this year differs from his rookie season because he didn't get much playing time last year.

"I didn't get enough playing time. I knew that if I got in shape I would probably get some playing time."

When Harris compares last year's team he said it was more individual play, whereas this season there is a team concept.

"We just didn't have a team first then individual second," said the 21-year-old all-star. "I guess I was kind of like that too. I just wanted to go out and score just like anybody else I imagine."

Harris and the Knights are in a familiar position with their backs against the wall in the playoff race. He said each game will be played as if it were a playoff one.

"It's a matter of certain players coming to play every night. For sure I know I will because I want to make the playoffs really bad," Harris said. "Last year we had one of the best teams but we didn't do anything with it."

The all-star guard said he knows other players, such as forward Derek Flindall, want to make the provincials because this is their graduating year.

On every championship team there's always a player that can take his team's game to another level. just have to learn how to come out and not play to their level.

"It's not a matter of trash talking the other team. We just have to beat them."

Harris said he doesn't think Niagara has that type of player.

"Maybe the closest to it is Mike Hurley," said Harris. " For sure we are going to need that type of player. I think if it's a close game we will need a player like that and Hurley will get that job."

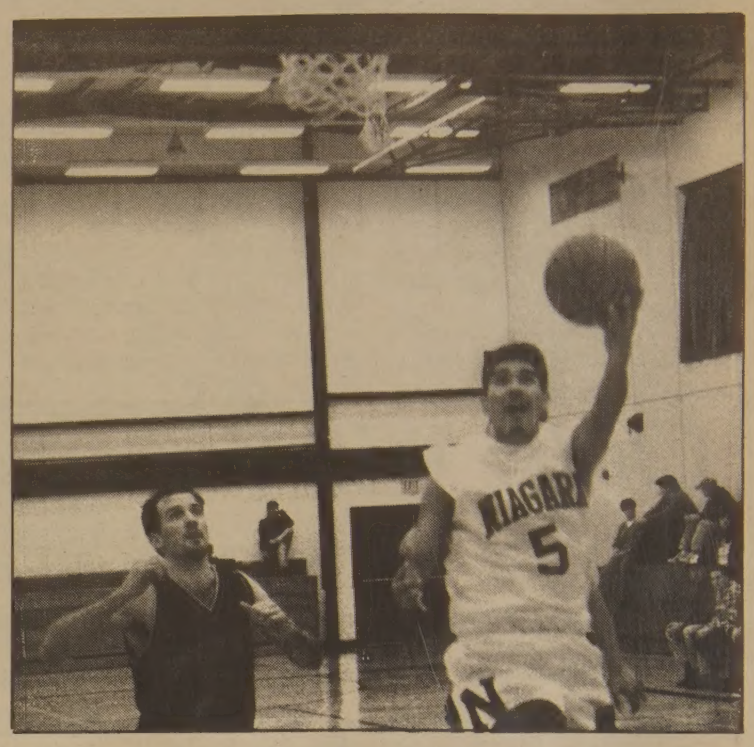
When Hurley made his decision to come back and play, Harris said he thought it was good. At times it's been frustrating because he thought Hurley was taking away from the team.

"He's in one part where he's a very good passer and makes everybody better. But sometimes he forces things and tries to go one-on-one too much and that screws up the team's flow."

"Now, in practices especially, he's starting to work on getting to know players better and other players know what to expect from him."

Harris said for a successful playoff run Niagara has to learn how to play above the competition.

"Take a team like St. Clair. We should beat them because they're nowhere near as good as we are. We



Niagara's all-star guard Mike Harris lays the ball up in an important game against Mohawk.

Photo by Randy Syer

Rags to riches

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

In today's high salary professional sports, there's a need for more Robin Hoods.

Professional athletes get paid more money then most of us dream about. Everyday we hear about some young prospect signing a seven-year $50 million contract. Just like that, a youngster out of college and even out of high school are instant millionaires.

Considering these athletes have more money then they know what to do with, so why don't they give to the community?

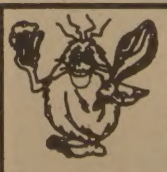
Sure there are some, like Atlanta Hawks' guard Steve Smith who donated money to build a student centre for athletes at Michigan State, his alma mater.

Smith is only one of a select group of players that use his millions to help other people.

Although, basketball superstar Michael Jordan does donate some of his money to various charities, it just isn't enough. Jordan is probably the most popular athlete in the world and through his endorsements he makes about $100 million a year.

I'm not saying athletes are all scrooges, but with problems like poverty, disease and even the deficit, why can't athletes be little more generous with their money.

Athletes should realize they are the privileged. They play games for a living and although at some point their jobs are demanding, they do get paid very generously.



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Knights fight hard in home loss

Mike Harris scores 25 points in nine minutes of play

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Niagara College basketball guard Mike Harris scored a game high 25 points as Niagara dropped a close one against Mohawk College of Hamilton in men's Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association basketball on Jan. 24.

Niagara lost 82-79 in front of the biggest crowd of the season. The loss drops Niagara's record to 1-5.

"I thought we played an excellent game. I'm very proud of the guys," said head coach Randy Conlon, who saw his team score a dismal 27 points in the first half.

Harris, who scored 22 of his 25 points in the second half, was in foul trouble early.

"The story of the game was Mike Harris only playing nine minutes. You take one of the top players in the league out of the game for 31 minutes and still hang around, the guys are doing a hell of a job."

Pitching in while Harris was on the bench was Mike Hurley who scored 16 points and Derek Flindall added 10 points for the Knights.

Conlon knew they had to pick up the scoring and said he told the team at half time if they wanted to win the game they would have to score 50 points in the second half.

Niagara responded by scoring 52 points, which wasn't enough as they lost by three.

Team captain Derek Flindall is hacked on the way to the basket.

Photo by Randy Syer

Conlon said his team fell victim to some "tough calls" and at some points he didn't know what the referees were calling.

Although Niagara has a losing record, the team remains in the playoff hunt.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed in losing. We're in a big hole right now," said Conlon. "But we're still going to make the playoffs. I'm confident of that. We can go 5-7 or 6-6 and we'll still make the playoffs."

He said this loss will boost the team's confidence because they only lost by three with Harris on the bench for most of the game.

"I'm happy. I'm not happy with the loss, don't get me wrong. I'm happy with the effort and with the way the guys played."

Niagara's next action at home is today against St. Clair College of Windsor at 8 p.m.

SPORTS

Women Knights get into foul trouble against Mohawk

Ingrid Wells, of the Knights, takes a shot against Mohawk College during a game on Jan. 24.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

The Niagara women's basketball team ran into foul trouble on Jan. 24 when they took on Hamilton's Mohawk College. They lost 48-37.

The first five minutes of the game were intense with the Knights making every basket.

The intensity of the game died when Andrea Flindall ended up with four fouls in the first half.

"We ran into a lot of foul trouble, but we worked hard," said Flindall after the game.

Michelle Pring worked hard by stealing the ball from Mohawk several times.

'We ran into a lot of foul trouble' - Andrea Flindall

Coach Brian Bleich called three full time-outs and one 20-second time-out in the first half, trying to get the Knights back in the game.

By half-time the Knights were down by 11 points.

The Knights showed their hard work and determination in the second half by making a few baskets tightening the scores.

With eight minutes left in the game, Flindall fouled out. Ingrid Wells followed her shortly afterward.

By half-time the Knights were down by 11 points.

Flindall was named player of the game and was the top scorer with 10 points. Stephanie Lawson added nine points, Pring, eight points, Manie Roy, six, Wells, three, and Trinity Smith added one point.

"This was a big game for us. Mohawk is the team we have to beat," said Tara Petrachenko, assistant coach for the Knights.

"We had an off game. We play Mohawk again and we have to beat them by 11 points or more to make it to the playoffs," added Petrachenko.

The Knights' next home game is Feb. 6 when they take on Redeemer College of Ancaster.

Athletics equal academics for scholarship awards

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Niagara blue-chippers are rewarded with annual scholarships.

For the second year, Niagara College handed out its academic-athletic awards to 12 varsity athletes.

"There's a couple of athletes that we feel are impact athletes and making a difference for their teams," said Ray Sarkis, director's assistant varsity and recreation. "It all relies on if you pass academically or not."

Recipients of this year's scholarships are from the men's basketball team: Steve Dever, Jerry Ferguson, Derek Flindall and Mike Hurley; from the women's basketball team; Andrea Flindall, Michelle Pring, Stephanie Kranjec and Stephanie Lawson; from the women's volleyball team: Milena Kusic and Jessie Kelly; and from the men's volleyball team: Kerby Bentley and Shawn Reimer.

Sarkis said the scholarship award goes towards the base tuition set by the ministry at the beginning of each academic year.

Athletes are recruited from various areas in Ontario and when they decide on Niagara they sign the agreement slip — the Athletic Financial Award Agreement.

The document is signed by various people such as the athlete, the coach of that particular team and an athletic department representative.

It outlines the criteria of what the athlete must do to get full scholarship money.

"Once we sign the agreement with the director and the athletes we're committed," said Sarkis. "We can't back out unless they break a rule on the agreement, including their academics."

Niagara's blue-chippers rewarded.

Sarkis said the award monies come from advertising displayed on the gym walls, fund-raising and private donations.

"Not all athletes are offered the scholarship," said Sarkis. "It all depends on the skills and their academics."

Sarkis said Niagara academics are important to their athletes' standings.

"We don't want jocks. We want athletes that are committed to school."

Knights win by coming from behind

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Rookie Kerby Bentley led Niagara College's men's volleyball team to victory by scoring 22 points.

Niagara travelled to Hamilton's Mohawk College on Jan. 22 and came out with a three games to two (15-12, 8-15, 10-15, 15-13, 15-5) win over the Mountaineers.

"There's still remembrance of the Humber game, confidence isn't there," head coach Blair Cudmore. "We came back with from two big deficits. We came back in the first game and the fourth game and we dominated in the final game."

The Knights found themselves down in the first game 12-4 and fought back to win the game 15-12.

Cudmore said Niagara couldn't be satisfied with this win because Mohawk isn't the team they have to beat to get out of the league.

The win versus Mohawk snaps Niagara's two-game losing streak. Niagara's win comes just before an important road game against Humber College of Etobicoke, which will decide the seedings in the provincial playoffs.

"We're starting to build more confidence again. I don't expect anything miraculous to happen against Humber," said Cudmore.

'We're starting to build more confidence again' - Blair Cudmore

Other scorers for Niagara were Pat Deschambeault with 21 points, Chris Wiarsma with 16 points and Paul Clark with 14 points.

"I hope we peak at the right time. That's certainly what we're still building towards," said Cudmore.

Niagara plays tonight against Georgian College of Barrie at 6 p.m.

A Niagara College volleyball player gets up for the spike.
Photo by Randy Syer

Baseball Hall of Famer visits

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Niagara College will be getting a taste of Cooperstown, N.Y. this weekend as baseball hall of famer pitcher Ferguson Jenkins will be at the college tomorrow to give a special one-day children's baseball clinic. Jenkins is helping out the Bulletproof Baseball Clinic.

Jenkins is the first Canadian-born member of baseball's Hall of Fame.

* Niagara Knight basketball players did well at the annual all-star game at Durham College in Oshawa on Jan. 25. On the women's side, Manie Roy was voted as the game's most valuable player for the Western Region. Andrea Flindall was second in the three-point contest. On the men's side, lone Niagara representative Mike Harris finished second in the three-point contest.

Women's volleyball lose another game

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

The Niagara College women's volleyball team is off to a bad start in 1997.

After having a game cancelled because of bad weather, the team lost its second match of the year, 14-16, 15-3, 15-6, 15-10 to Mohawk College of Hamilton.

Laura Chatterton led the way with 12 kills. Niagara received some strong "big blocks" by Cindy Jarry and Meredith Sharpe.

Coach Carolyn Schatz said she got "good solid defence by Jessie Kelly digging up those hard hits.

"Our defence is improving and still adjusting to the changes in our lineup," said Schatz. "But the team is working together."

The loss drops the Knights' record to 0-7, last in the Western Region standings.

League all-star Laura Chatterton is ninth in the West Region in scoring averaging 3.1 points per game.

The team's next action at home is against Hamilton's Mohawk College on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

Magic, comedy amuses evening college crowd

Comedians love their jobs for free time, laughs they get

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

Now that's showbiz.

Two talented performers appeared at After Hours to display their double-sided talent of comedy and magic on Jan. 22.

Kevin McGarth, 33, of Edmonton, Alta., was the opening act.

Although he has been in the business for 12 years, Jan. 22 was his first visit to Niagara College in Welland.

"Steve Martin is my idol and my inspiration," said McGarth.

"I got into comedy because my brother and I were at the legion with my dad, and the performers on stage were horrible. My dad had too much to drink and he yelled out that we could do better. So we did.

"After that we performed at the legion on a regular basis with pay."

McGarth is an experienced comedian. He's appeared on Comedy Club 54, CityTV and other Canadian comedy programs.

He said he "used to juggle," but found it hard to make a living.

McGarth uses a variety of techniques when performing, ranging from card tricks and raw comedy, to playing the guitar.

"I only play my guitar for about 10 minutes in my skits.

"Hopefully, someday I can write a sitcom and sell some of my songs."

McGarth said he "loves his job" because it leaves him "with a lot of free time.

"The only problem is the uncertainty of where your next meal is coming from. When you retire you don't get a pension or gold watch."

He said he hopes to "be the next Gary David. He performed until he was in his sixties."

The headliner of the night was David Merry. The 34-year-old entertainer from Toronto was visiting Niagara for the second time in his career.

About 85 people were at After Hours.

"I was always the class clown in school, and finally by the end of high school my friends encouraged me to start comedy as a career. So I did."

Merry has been doing comedy for 14 years.

"I also teach golf in my spare time. I don't have much spare time though because I do about 300 shows a year."

Like McGarth, Merry also uses magic in his performances because "it helps add variety."

Merry just completed a Canadian movie in which he worked behind the scenes as a consultant.

"I hope to soon be in movies. I want bigger exposure.

"I love my job. As soon as I stop loving it, then it's time to quit."

Merry said the audience's laughter is "a thrill," but he doesn't like "looking for shows" because of occasional cancellations.

"Luckily I work for Yuk Yuk's so they make it all happen."

David Merry performs at After Hours on Jan. 22.
Photo by Jeff Garrett

Blues band burns up After Hours

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

After Hours has got the blues.

Jordan Patterson and the D.C. Hurricane "lit a match and left After Hours on fire."

Jordon Patterson, 27, of Washington D.C., is the singer, songwriter and harmonica player for the band.

"I love music. Too many people take it for granted. Even if there's only five people in the place you still have to perform because everyone deserves a show."

Patterson has always had a passion for "Chicago-style" blues music and has always idolized Junior James, Carey Bell, Sonny Rhodes, and Frankie Lee.

Before his current band, Patterson was with J.P. and the Heaters.

"I wanted to go to the States so I had to leave the band in Canada."

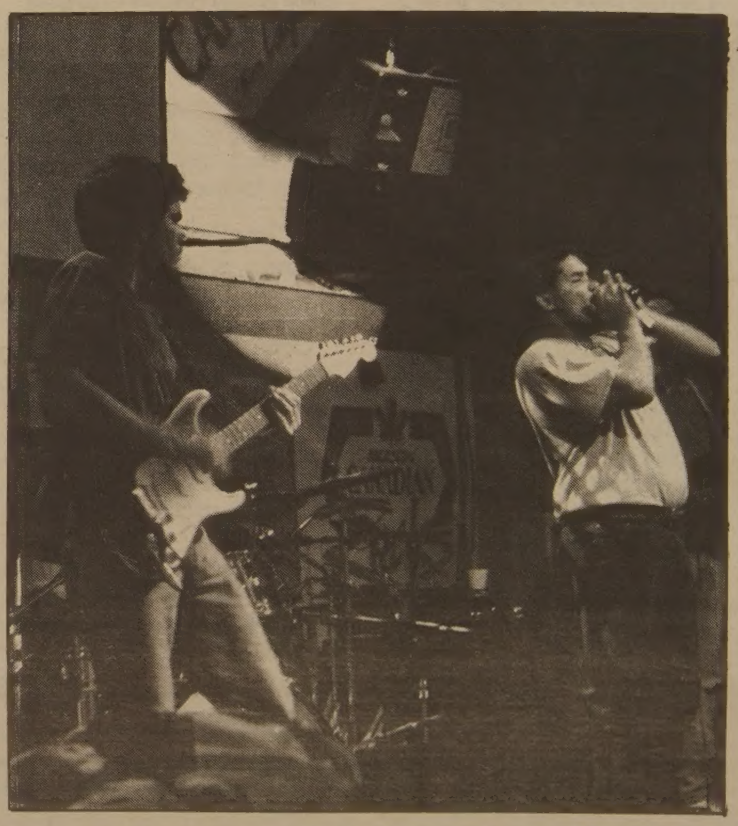
Jordon Patterson and the D.C. Hurricane was formed in 1995 when it released its debut album **Give me a Chance.** Since then it has been playing at the top blues clubs and major festivals in Canada, the United States and Europe.

"My goal is to perform to people who deeply love the style of music, and rock the world," said Patterson.

Jan. 23 was the Hurricane's first time performing at Niagara College.

"We have 17 schools to perform at in 10 days. It's a hectic schedule but this is a nice place. I'm glad we came."

Jordon Patterson and the D.C. Hurricane consists of four musicians: Patterson, the singer and harmonica player; Tommy Derr, the guitarist; El Toro Gamble, the drummer; and Greg Lewis, the bass guitarist.



Jordan Patterson and D.C. Hurricane perform at After Hours on Jan. 23.
Photo by Jeff Garrett

"We're a team," said Patterson. "A lot of band leaders say me, me, me, but it's not just me. I can't do it without them."

The band has displayed its talent throughout most of the world in places such as Florida, Toronto, and locations in Estonia, Finland and England.

"We've had great reviews from all over the world, and that's what I want. I want to get our name out."

Patterson said he likes to "write music that people can feel, like no other band can.

"We recently performed in Toronto at Coca Town and we cleaned up there. We're on the rise and we're never going to stop."

Coffee house open to all musicians

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

If you are a musician looking for a place to play or if you just want to go somewhere for fun and music, here is a place for you.

The Fonthill and District Kinsman Coffee House, Niagara's best kept secret, is a non-alcoholic and non-smoking organization where musicians of all ages are welcome to come out and play. Country, folk, blues, pop and gospel are some of the types of music to be heard or played. Musicians are welcome to come out and play any style of music they wish.

The coffee house is located at Davis Hall on Haist Street North in Fonthill. The regular gatherings are held the second Friday of every month.

There is a $2 cover charge. All proceeds are given back to the community through donations to charitable organizations. The coffee house serves pizza, pop and coffee. These family nights of entertainment begin at 7:30 p.m.

The coffee house was founded by Kevin Twomey in 1994.

Bob Gibson, of Welland, is this year's board of directors president and master of ceremonies.

"The coffee house is in its third year and has attracted hundreds of people from the Niagara Region," said Gibson, who is also the Niagara Regional Literacy council vice-chair and a member of the St. John Ambulance Dog Therapy Brigade in Welland.

He said the group also organizes benefit concerts throughout the Niagara Region.

They will be holding a benefit concert, called Gospel Fest '97, for the Open Arms Mission in Welland at Bethany Christian Church in Fenwick on Feb. 28.

Despite the bad weather, about 15 performers came out and played at the coffee house on Jan. 10. Clerence Shook, 57, of Welland, was the featured performer for the evening.

Other performers included Ronnie Robinson of Welland, Moyralyn Stephens of Thorold, Brian Bozzat of Fonthill, Joe Vanoelinoe of Port Dalhousie, Stew Brennand of Niagara Falls.

The coffee house board of directors includes promotion directors from Niagara Falls, Grimsby, Welland, Dunnville, Thorold and St. Catharines.

Beenie Man shines on Maestro

By CHRIS GREEN
Staff Writer

Beenie Man is back with his second CD **Maestro** produced by Shocking Vibes and VP Records.

Beenie is a veteran artist and has been mashing up Jamaica's dancehalls since the early 1980's, long before he ever produced a full-length CD.

Maestro is an 18-track CD cementing Beenie as one of dancehalls' foremost artists. The CD showcases his versatility and skill. Beenie's other CD is entitled **Blessed**.

The track *Long Longi Lala* features Lady Saw, one of Jamaica's foremost female artists. Other tracks, such as *Oh Jah Jah* , feature Silver Cat, of the Shocking Vibes Crew as does Nuh Lock, featuring Little Kirk, another Shocking Vibes' alumnus.

The CD is a compilation of girl tunes, conscious vibes and a few clash tunes.

Nuff Gall is set to a jazz beat showing Beenie's ability to ride almost any rhythm. The track *Be My Lady* has a 1960s rock and roll feel to it.

The track *His-Story* tells the story of Beenie's rise through the industry, from his beginings as a DJ with King Jammy's sound system to his present position in the dancehall world.

Although 10 of the tracks have been previously released on 45, the CD is a must have for any reggae dancehall fan.

All Mixed Up, anything but

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

LA BOUCHE is **All Mixed Up**.

The sounds and rhythmic beats of the album **All Mixed Up** are pleasing to the ear, but lacking in taste.

LA BOUCHE has tried to spice up its songs released on **Sweet Dreams**, but they add unnecessary club-mix to songs.

If you purchase **All Mixed Up**, you should be warned that there is only one new song out of 10 songs in total. The new song is called *Forget Me Nots*.

On a lighter note, however, while I disagree with how the band has compiled the album, I will concur that for the non-dancers out there, it will make you dance.

One other thing that should be complimented on the album is the 10th track called *Megamix*. It's the shortest song on the album at three minutes 43 seconds, and combines the songs *Sweet Dreams, Fallin' In Love, Be My Lover,* and *I Love To Live* into one unique song.

I give **All Mixed Up** a five out of 10 because it has great sound, but no creativity. Perhaps when the band releases a new album, it will rate a higher score if it contains new songs. If you want an unplugged album of LA BOUCHE, this is the one.

Chan's First Strike action packed

However, Chan's fourth release compares to Power Rangers

By RICHARD MANCUSO
Staff Writer

Jackie Chan's **First Strike** is a fun movie for your theatre-going dollars.

In this movie, Chan's fourth North American release, he plays a Hong Kong police detective who gets caught up in international espionage while working for the CIA.

The film moves from Hong Kong to Ukraine and ends in Australia.

The plot is admittedly a weak one and is inferior to the plots of his past films. But who goes to a martial arts film for the deep philosophical meaning?

The main attraction is the action, and this film is loaded with it.

There are car chases, snowmobile chases and helicopter chases which deliver the excitement Chan fans have come to expect.

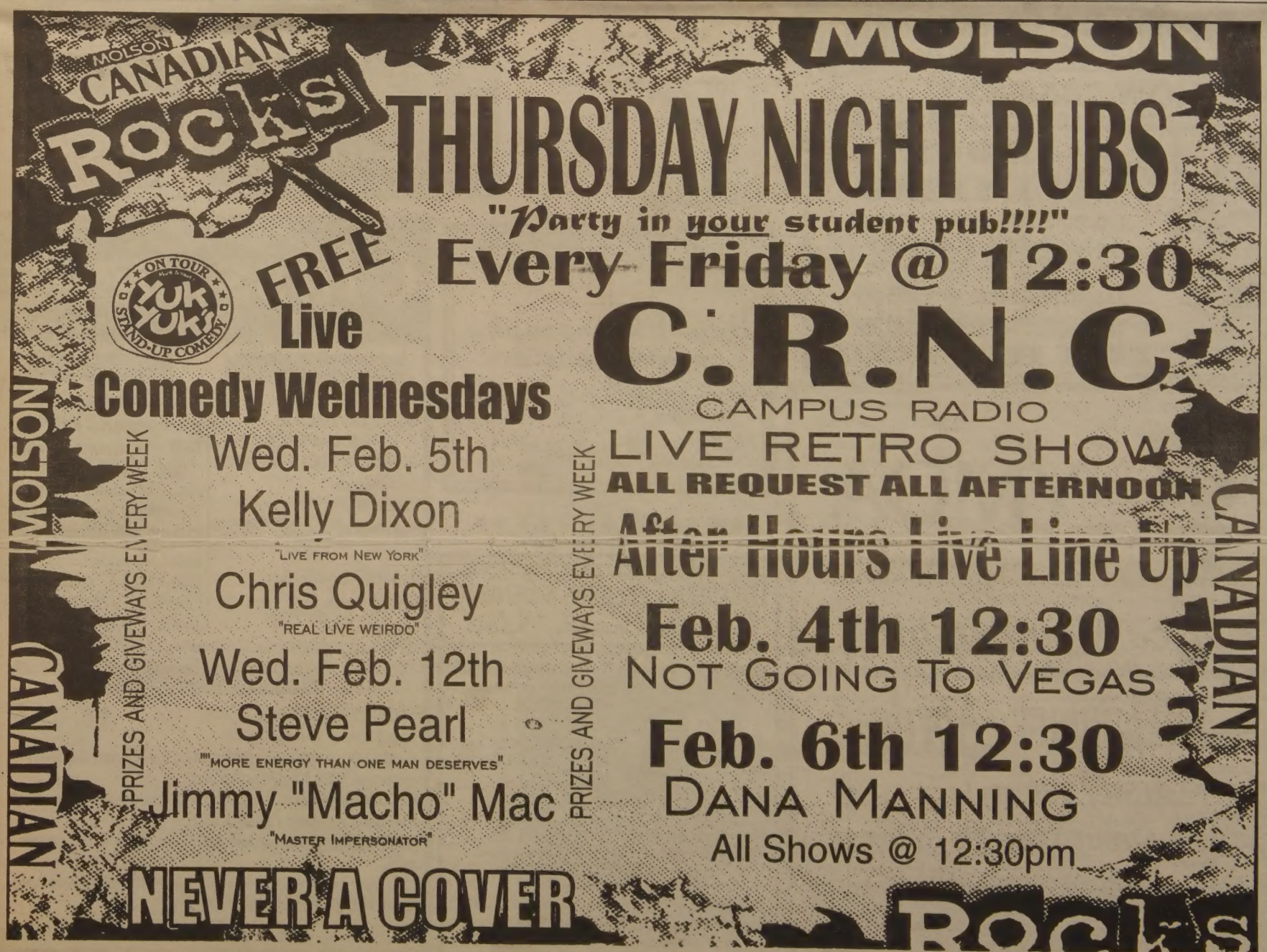
However, those going to see this movie for Chan's famous choreographed fight scenes may be disappointed.

The first battle doesn't take place for about 40 minutes. However, when the action starts and Chan lets loose with his lightning-fast reflexes, the action comes fast and hard.

Using everything from tables and chairs to a stepladder to beat up his many attackers, Chan once again shows his expertise in his art and the fantastic choreography for which his films are noted.

Whether Chan is fighting seven-foot tall Russian agents or battling enemies under-water in a killer shark tank, this movie is as funny as it is exciting.

The movie only runs 90 minutes and is rated Parental Guidance. Youngsters would probably enjoy it, especially if they like the Power Rangers.



Cars, cash, prizes to be won in giant lottery

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

It's a lottery with two giant prizes.

Proceeds from the Way Better Lottery will help support health and human care agencies in various communities via the United Way.

The grand prize in the lottery is $1 million. The second prize is a 1997 Chrysler vehicle valued at $47,000.

There are more than 1,200 prizes with a prize package worth more than $1.6 million.

One ticket costs $50. Three tickets cost $146, and 10 tickets cost $450.

"This is the first time we have had this campaign," said Melonie Manning, a volunteer at the Way Better Lottery information office in Toronto. "Ticket sales have been great."

Pamphlets outlining regulations and prizes, as well as ticket order forms, were recently mailed out, including a return-stamped envelope.

Jamie Palmer, executive director of the United Way in Niagara Falls, said members of the local drive decided not to be involved in the campaign because they felt a $50 ticket wouldn't sell in the Niagara Region.

However, if you would like to buy a ticket, they can be obtained at the United Way office at the Seaway Mall in Welland.

Gary Clement, of the United Way in Welland, said his agency is involved in the Way Better Lottery.

"Each $50 ticket we sell, we profit $8 to $10 that we will put into the Welland community," said Clement.

An earlybird draw worth $100,000 in cash occurs on Feb. 21. The deadline for the other draws, including the grand prize, is March 22.

Padgett offers $4,000 award

By BRIAN HALLETT
Staff Writer

A company with offices throughout North America is offering scholarships to students whose parents own small businesses.

"More than $50,000 will be offered this year to help out students," said Roseann Waters, a marketing manager for Padgett Business Services on Colborne Street in Niagara Falls.

A local winner will qualify for a grand prize scholarship of $4,000.

Padgett Business Services has awarded more than $150,000 to graduating high school students since 1990.

Established in 1966, the company provides financial reporting and tax consulting services.

To be eligible, students must be a dependent of a small business owner who employs fewer than 20 people. The parent must be an owner of the business and have 10 per cent or more of the stock.

The parent must be an active owner in the day-to-day operations of the business. The student must intend to go to a creditable post-secondary institution.

The deadline for applications is March 1. For more information, call your local Padgett office. The company has more than 300 offices in North America.

How to repay loans information available

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

An informational Repayment Workshop will be held Feb. 3 between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the Secord Room, Welland campus.

Ara Merzinkian, a CIBC bank representative, will discuss repayment of OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) loans. A similar session was held last November.

The workshop will help students exiting the college, giving them options and explaining how to go about repaying their loans.

"It will give the dos and don'ts regarding outstanding debts," says Elaine Grandmaison, associate registrar.

After leaving college, students must know how to repay their loans. "It is important for people to understand the impact of interest."

The turnout for the previous workshop consisted of two people. Grandmaison says the workshop is "very" important for the students' future.

This is a chance to have questions and concerns addressed.

Reaching out to world by web

By RICHARD MANCUSO
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Web Site will soon have a new addition.

The addition will be in the form of a new page about International Education.

The page will tell potential international students information about Niagara College, including available programs and details about the English as a Second Language program and the college's Homestay program.

"This page will enlarge our exposure," said Jos Nolle, manager of the college's International Education department.

Nolle said he already gets three or four inquiries a week by E-mail.

"This web page will make more information accessible to international students."

Nolle said he hopes to have the page operational by February.

The page, which has been examined by the college's Information Services department, was developed by a student at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ont.

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I love smoking.
It gives idiots something to do between classes
It gives athletes an excuse for losing.
Man, if we weren't smokers we'd of wooped those guys.

Word search: people's favorite mixed drinks

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

APPLEJACKS
BLOODY MARY
BLUE LAGOON
BROWN COW
CEASAR
GIN AND TONIC
GLACIERS
KAMIKAZI
KILLER KOOL-AID
MELON BURST
MIKE'S HARD LEMONADE
MONKEY'S LUNCH
PARALYZER
PINA COLADA
RUM AND COKE
RYE AND COKE
RYE AND GINGER
SAMBUCA
SCREWDRIVER
STRAWBERRY DAQUIRI
TEQUILA
TOM COLLINS
VODKA CRANBERRY
WHITE RUSSIAN

A	C	R	Y	E	A	N	D	G	I	N	G	E	R	B	U	C	A	L	Y	R
M	H	A	Q	Z	X	K	U	S	R	E	Z	Y	L	A	R	A	P	E	A	Y
E	S	B	L	U	E	L	A	G	O	O	N	V	H	U	R	D	D	G	C	E
L	A	W	R	E	V	I	R	D	W	E	R	C	S	K	L	A	C	L	U	A
O	M	O	T	O	M	C	O	L	L	I	N	S	M	B	N	L	I	A	B	N
N	L	C	E	A	S	A	R	X	K	U	M	F	L	O	G	O	N	C	M	D
B	U	N	H	R	Q	S	T	U	L	V	W	O	M	X	Y	C	O	I	A	C
U	Q	W	Z	A	H	C	J	S	L	F	O	E	M	O	Q	A	T	E	S	O
R	A	O	D	I	B	K	Y	E	G	D	L	N	P	R	S	N	D	R	K	K
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y	D	A	Q	U	I	R	I	N	S	C	E
T	E	B	T	U	K	V	W	M	R	X	Y	I	Z	A	B	P	A	C	A	D
E	Q	F	G	N	H	I	A	A	J	L	K	M	Z	O	N	P	N	Q	J	R
S	U	T	O	U	V	R	H	Z	W	A	X	B	Y	A	C	E	I	D	E	F
G	I	M	H	P	Y	S	Q	I	R	J	S	K	T	L	K	M	G	N	L	O
U	L	Y	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C	A	K	D	O	V	I	V	X	P	W
Y	A	Z	B	K	I	L	L	E	R	K	O	O	L	A	I	D	M	A	P	C
D	W	H	I	T	E	R	U	S	S	I	A	N	E	H	L	O	F	A	A	G
I	P	M	R	J	Q	K	E	K	O	C	D	N	A	M	U	R	S	M	K	N

Follow your gut instincts to happiness, Leo

By PENNI TONEGUZZO and KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writers

Here are your horoscopes for the weekend of Jan. 31 to Feb. 2.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Your emotions are running wild and frantic. Take a break from your worries and go away for the weekend. Lucky numbers: 5, 89

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

The water and wind will collide this evening making you feel powerful. Keep a close eye on your ego. It may cause you problems. Lucky numbers: 18, 53

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Tonight is the night to spend with family. Plan an activity that you all enjoy. You'll realize you're having a great time. Lucky numbers: 4, 27

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An old mate will contact you to revive the old sparks. Be wise when making your decision, you could get hurt. Lucky numbers: 26, 71

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Turning your back on a friend will make you feel terrible in the end. Try to be supportive. Lucky numbers: 45, 98

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

A job loss will make you frustrated, but don't worry. There is light at the end of your dark tunnel. Lucky numbers: 56, 87

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Don't ignore your instincts. You'll only regret it later. Lucky numbers: 22, 33

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

It's time to do some soul-searching. What is it you're looking for in life? Lucky numbers: 13, 67

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Secrets are meant to be kept. You'd appreciate the same respect. Lucky numbers: 34, 66

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Take some time for yourself this weekend. You've been working hard. Lucky numbers: 26, 56

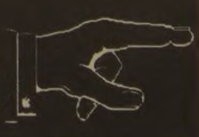
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You've been a bit spooked lately. Some research into the things you fear may calm your nerves. Lucky numbers: 35, 78

Capricorn (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)

Your cheery mood is contagious. Remember there's a difference between childlike and childish. There's nothing wrong with having fun. Lucky numbers: 1, 45

Got the late night munchies?
Open ALL NIGHT
Friday & Saturday
CAPTAIN CLUB'S RESTAURANT
810 East Main St., Welland 735-1440 Just West of Zellers

Eats
? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?
Party


SOUTH BEACH
COOKHOUSE & TAP
Get loonie for a toonie each Friday with FM 101 Planet DJ
One Crazy Dance Party!
Get drafted for a loonie each Thursday all request Rock & Roll D.J.
All Age Rage each Saturday $5 if under 19
Only 10 minutes away !!!
Hwy#3 Port Colborne / take Prince Charles to Port, turn right at McDonalds, go 1.4 K.M.

Future journalists share their thoughts

Our elevated voices— a tell-tale sign

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

On an entirely too cold Friday evening, five friends sit in London Arms Restaurant and Pub in St. Catharines' Pen Centre.

We're just over three months away from graduating from the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College.

We listen to each other's journalistic ramblings, understanding issues in a way it seems only other writers would understand. Our voices occasionally become too loud, warranting sideways glances from other patrons. I see our elevated volume as a tell-tale sign of our passion for what we do.

Brad Moscato, 21, of Welland, on his 17th day without a cigarette, has already become an anti-smoking crusader, ready to take on the tobacco industry with pen in hand.

"Why should we give money to a sinister tobacco industry that makes profits off killing us?" he asks.

The rest of us, all non-smokers, share in his disgust with the industry. Still, we tease him for being so zealous in his causes.

Yet, we're the same that way.

Moscato and I have a good-natured debate about the differences between print and broadcast journalism.

"You have to get the same message across on the radio as in the paper, but with fewer details," I tell him. I've just recently learned this from a Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program class I've sat in on, so I figure it's my turn to be the closest thing to a resident expert on an issue. "Come to the class and you'll see," I say.

Twenty-one-year-old Richard Mancuso, of Niagara Falls, says he agrees. He says a BRTF program student gave him "the skinny on it.

"You have to be prepared to cover yourself if there's a technical problem," says Mancuso.

'The editors tell me cut five inches here, 10 there, when I've painstakingly sat up until 5 a.m. writing.'

- Adam Kieswetter

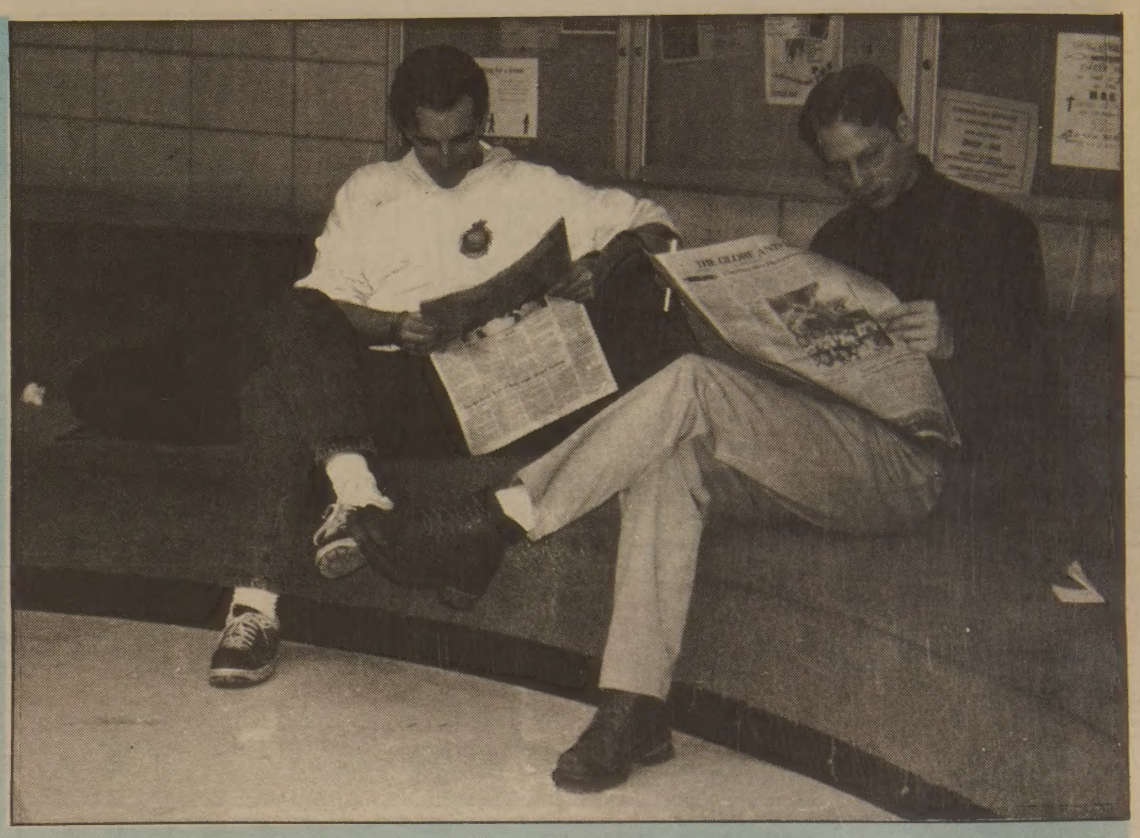
Adam Kieswetter, of Vineland, has been quietly listening. Quiet is not a usual Kieswetter trait. The 21-year-old says nothing is wrong.

"He's listening, soaking everything in," says Gretta Rossi, 22, of Welland. Kieswetter grins.

Rossi sips her Spanish coffee. The cherry and whipped cream once proudly topping off the drink were gone long ago. I shiver after I take a gulp of my icy Strongbow cider.

"That's why I got coffee," says Rossi, adding, "It warms you up."

The coffee isn't the only warmth here. Even though we don't agree on all of the issues we dissect, there's still a base similarity between us. We all write. We're all born communicators.



Second-year Journalism-Print program students, Adam Kieswetter, 21, and Brad Moscato, 21, share a common passion — the news. The inquisitive pair make it a habit to read everything they can get their hands on. They can usually be seen out and about at the Welland campus and in the community in search of stories for the Niagara News, as well as the Pelham News.
Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

And we all understand the angst accompanying having stories edited, the injustice of it all.

We one-up each other, comparing what we consider editing fiascos. Although rationally we know editing is a necessary evil, we don't like to have our babies, as our program co-ordinator, Phyllis Barnatt, calls them, changed.

"The editors tell me to cut five inches here, 10 there, when I've painstakingly sat up until 5 a.m. writing," says Kieswetter, throwing his hands into the air.

Our heads bob up and down in agreement.

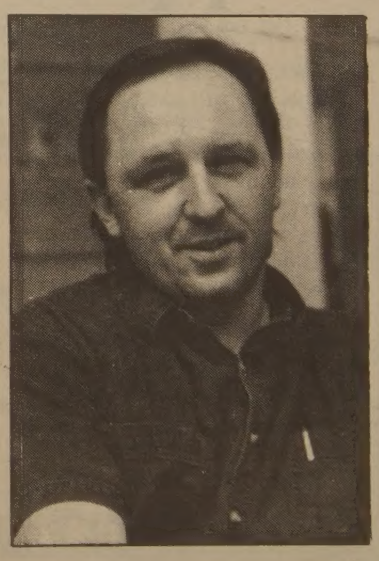
Yet, our styles are drastically different. Moscato, politically astute, makes sure he asks the toughest questions. A walking thesaurus, Kieswetter always seeks out bigger and better words.

Rossi and I prefer to get our messages out quickly. Rossi, however, can come up with snappy headlines in a split second, while I agonize over them.

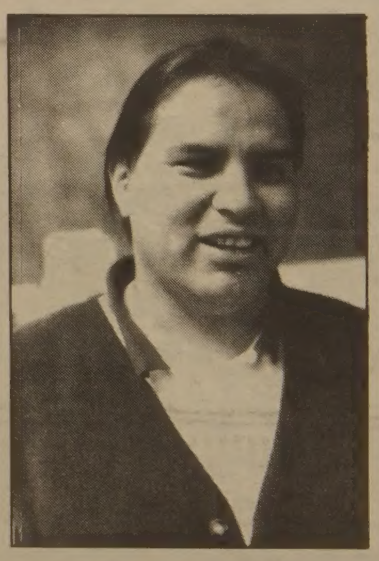
Mancuso's wit shows through in his writing, with phrases like, "all work and no play makes for cranky students," and he knows what he's talking about. This is why we sit together on a cold evening. There's nothing worse than cranky journalists.

Word on campus-How the college staff keep in shape

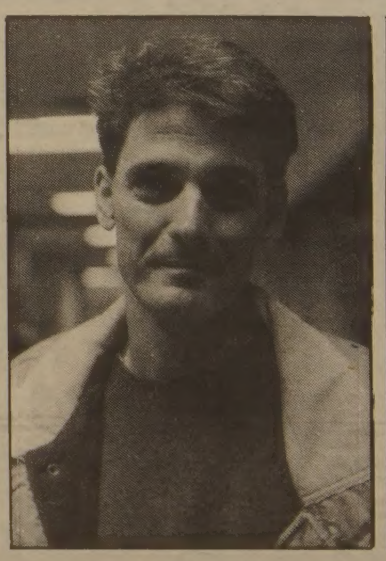
JOANNE MIANI



RON CROWLEY



RUSS BLACKBIRD



LEWIS SILVESTRI

IRMA CAIN

By ROBERT HALLETT and MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writers

Question: How do you keep in shape?

JoAnne Miani, 51, of Welland, divisional secretary for Foundation Studies, says "I always have plans to join an aerobics class, but never do."

Instead, Miani keeps fit by walking for "sometimes half an hour or sometimes an hour . . . whenever (she has) the energy."

Welland resident **Ron Crowley**, 36, exercises by "chasing after (his) children." Crowley's two children are Vailly, 7, and Brennan, 1.

The advertising account manager for the Niagara News says he doesn't exercise in the conventional sense because "there are not enough hours in the day."

Aboriginal Cultural Promotion and Outreach Officer **Russ Blackbird**, 28, of Fort Erie, says "I keep my gym bag right beside my desk." He says he keeps the bag ready in case he has a chance to go to the fitness room in the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus.

"I like to ride the bike for a half an hour," he says, adding he shoots hoops to "warm down."

Communications teacher **Lewis Silvestri**, 38, of St. Catharines, exercises his mind by speed reading. He exercises his body by doing push-ups and sit-ups at home, and taking his pug, Basil, for a run.

He says he plays "a lot of golf" smiling as he adds, "remind people that golfing means walking 2 1/2 miles over hill and dale with a 45 lb. bag . . . cursing and swearing."

"I'm just starting to (exercise)," says **Irma Cain**, 55, secretary in Niagara College's counselling office at the Welland campus, adding her daughter is the motivation for her current exercise workouts.

The Fonthill resident says she tries to exercise three times a week, but she hasn't "gotten into a routine yet."